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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

MESSAGES RECEIVED ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLING PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA (SOWETO DAY)

(Issued in accordance with a decision taken by the Special Committee at its 640th meeting, on 15 June 1990)

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I. MESSAGES FROM MEMBER STATES

AFGHANISTAN

Message from Mr. Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

[Original: English]

On behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, I would like to express our unswerving solidarity on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (Soweto Day).

Recent developments in South Africa, which have resulted in the release of political prisoners, including the prominent African National Congress of South Africa figure, Mr. Nelson Mandela, and the legalization of a number of political organizations, are not accidental. They are the outcome of the indefatigable struggles of anti-apartheid organizations and personalities and of the efforts of the international community, particularly those of the United Nations, which has played an important role in the fight against racial discrimination and apartheid.

The Republic of Afghanistan believes that the eradication of the system of apartheid from our planet requires full solidarity with the struggle of the people of South Africa and that the international community must utilize all possibilities, including international sanctions against South Africa, until the complete eradication of the apartheid system has been achieved and a solution has been found to the question of political power after the abolition of that system. Recent developments must not be interpreted as a justification for relaxing these sanctions.

Marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa is testimony to the fact that their struggle against racism and apartheid enjoys the full support of the international community. I would like to reiterate the full support of the peace-loving people of Afghanistan for their struggle against apartheid, which the international community has condemned for successive decades.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Message from Mr. V. C. Bird, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (Soweto Day), the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda wish to reiterate their strong condemnation of the practice of apartheid, and they pledge to continue working towards the eradication of that evil system.

The international community must not be swayed from exerting maximum pressure on the Government of South Africa; the minimal gains recently made can be greatly attributed to that pressure.

The Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda remain firm and steadfast in their determination to assist the victimized people of South Africa in their struggle to obtain equity and justice within their country.

I wish to assure the majority people in South Africa that Antigua and Barbuda will continue to work towards winning their complete liberation.

ARGENTINA

Message from Mr. Domingo Cavallo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa - Soweto Day, I should like to reaffirm that for the Argentine Government and people, apartheid is a crime against humanity, incompatible with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In this context, the Government of the Argentine Republic firmly supports the action taken by the United Nations, particularly through the General Assembly and the Special Committee against Apartheid, to secure recognition of equality among all men, regardless of their origin, race, ideology or religion.

The Argentine nation declares its solidarity with those who are the victims of racial discrimination and complies with the measures taken by the United Nations within the framework of the struggle against apartheid. In keeping with this solidarity, the Government of Argentina does not maintain diplomatic relations with the South African Government.

We recognize, however, that Pretoria has taken some heartening steps in the right direction. We welcome this new attitude and hope that it will continue, grow in intensity and culminate in the permanent abolition of the policy of apartheid. The South African Government must understand that while such partial reform deserves to be encouraged, in and of itself it is not the final goal, which can be none other than terminating this policy, as the entire international community unanimously demands.

BANGLADESH

Message from Mr. Hussain Muhammad Ershad, President of Bangladesh

[Original: English]

To commemorate the Soweto uprising in 1976, the date of 16 June was proclaimed by the United Nations as the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa. For 14 years, Bangladesh, along with the world community, has annually observed this anniversary. We reaffirm our unequivocal support and solidarity with the people of South Africa in their struggle for emancipation from oppression and discrimination and for the realization of freedom, justice, human dignity and peace. On this day, too, we record our solemn tribute to the viliant pursuit of their just cause.

As we commemorate this occasion today, we are conscious of a new sense of optimism. Epochal changes in South Africa signal the possibility of a radical breakthrough in the entrenched bastion of apartheid. After years of frustrating struggle and bitter sacrifices, significant new possibilities have emerged that could transform the political situation in South Africa. The release of the great South African leader Nelson Mandela after almost three decades of imprisonment, the independence of Namibia and the recent lifting of the emergency have set in motion vital negotiations that could change the face of South Africa.

Bangladesh is at one with the people of South Africa that the outcome of any process of negotiation must be a new constitutional order determined by them and based on the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The vision of a united, multi-racial and democratic state in which all people shall enjoy common and equal citizenship and nationality, regardless of race, colour, sex or creed and in which all people can participate in the Government on the basis of universal, equal sufferage remains for Bangladesh a vital objective. On this solemn occasion, the Government and people of Bangladesh reaffirm their total solidarity and support for the realization of this fundamental goal.

BARBADOS

Message from Mr. Maurice A. King, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Barbados

[Original: English]

More than a century ago, Frederick Douglas, the great American abolitionist, diplomat, author and journalist, stressed the absolute necessity of using struggle as a means of attaining freedom. He said:

> "If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who favour freedom and yet depreciate agitation are men who want crops without ploughing up the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean

without the awful roar of its mighty waters. This struggle might be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, or it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will ... Men may not get all they pay for in this world, but they must certainly pay for what they get."

Today, as we once again join hopes and hearts across the world to commemorate the fourteenth International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, I want us to refocus our attention on conditions in that country and realize that the struggle has only just begun.

Sadly, struggle is very much a way of life for black South Africans, a people willing to pay any price for their freedom.

It was on 16 June 1976 - exactly 14 years ago today - that members of the South African police force fired on a group of black schoolchildren engaged in a peaceful protest in the township of Soweto.

The youngsters were demonstrating against the compulsory use of the Afrikaans language in their schools. But does it really matter why they were protesting? Whatever their reason, the police action was a brutal one that cost the lives of a number of innocent children.

The violence, sadly, did not stop with the slaughter of the youngsters; it spread to other townships, resulting in the deaths of more than 500 blacks. And today, 14 years later, South African blacks are still engaged in a moral and physical battle against the degrading and shameless system of apartheid.

Just to show you the extent of the struggle, the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) was formed way back in 1912, even before the white leaders of South Africa had the effrontery to institutionalize apartheid as a way of life.

So, for more than 70 years, our brothers and sisters in South Africa have been openly agitating for the right to freedom and self-determination that should have been theirs to claim from the moment of birth.

Yes, the struggle goes on; but now, for the first time, it seems as if there may be a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.

In February 1990, Nelson Mandela, that indomitable leader of men, was freed from a South African gaol after spending 27 years behind bars because he would not bow to the god of apartheid.

And just before Mr. Mandela's release, South African President F. W. De Klerk announced what some described as a major step towards peace in that country. He lifted a 30-year ban on ANC and also removed restrictions on 36 anti-apartheid groups. In addition, the South African leader freed political prisoners, ended emergency press censorship and announced a moratorium on hanging.

"The time for negotiation has arrived," Mr. De Klerk said at that time. "The season of violence is over. The time for reconstruction and reconciliation has arrived."

However, according to press reports, on the day Mr. De Klerk made that speech, South African police used tear gas and dogs in an attempt to disperse hundreds of blacks who had gathered in spontaneous celebration of the President's announcement. Four people were injured in the melee.

And the struggle goes on.

Just last week, Mr. De Klerk lifted the state of emergency in effect throughout South Africa since 1986. The harsh laws, aimed primarily at political dissent, were, however, kept in place in the eastern Natal province.

In suspending these laws throughout most of South Africa, the president partially removed one of the major obstacles to the start of negotiations between the white-led Government and anti-apartheid leaders.

However, there are additional laws that enable the police to detain people without trial, place anti-apartheid activists under house arrest and ban political meetings. In addition, the fact that the state of emergency is still in effect for the eastern Natal province continues to be cause for concern.

In the light of the reforms currently taking place in South Africa, voices have been raised, both locally and internationally, calling for an ease in sanctions against the Pretoria régime. Indeed, some prominent leaders have urged that the Government of Mr. De Klerk be "rewarded" for its efforts at reforming apartheid.

I would like to take this opportunity to make abundantly clear Barbados' position on the issue of sanctions. My Government is convinced that sanctions cannot be eased or lifted or in any way rescinded until apartheid is no more. Anything as inhuman, cruel and repugnant as is apartheid cannot be reformed, it must be destroyed.

Indeed, it would do us well to realize that the major tenets of apartheid are still very much in place in South Africa. For instance, the Population Registration Act still legally classifies South Africans by race. In addition, acts that date back to 1913 and 1936 still reserve 87 per cent of the land in South Africa for whites, currently 14 per cent of the population.

Furthermore, the Group Areas Act continues to bar blacks from attending white schools or living in most white neighbourhoods. Finally, blacks have no political voice in South Africa; they cannot vote, nor can they run for office.

The struggle goes on; and because it does, pressure against Pretoria cannot be eased for even a moment. Barbados' Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Her Excellency Dame Nita Barrow, made this abundantly clear in an address to the General Assembly in December 1989:

"The time to relax sanctions is not now, rather increased concerted measures are called for to hasten the process of change in South Africa. ... Now is not the time to give pause but to push on and consolidate, and seize the opportunity for a negotiated and peaceful settlement of this intractable problem. Sanctions and a negotiated and peaceful settlement in South Africa are inseparable."

Indeed, no one could be more adamant about maintaining sanctions than Mr. Mandela himself. As Deputy President of ANC, he has been unswerving in his commitment to the dismantling of apartheid.

In the short time since his release from prison, Mr. Mandela has travelled throughout Africa and Europe, and will shortly visit the United States, in an attempt to maintain pressure on the Government of Mr. De Klerk. Can we in the international community do any less?

The struggle is not over; the goal is as yet out of reach. After more than 70 years of disciplined and organized agitation against apartheid, it would be a pity, no, a moral affront, to abandon the race before the prize is won.

Let the struggle go on.

BOLIVIA

Message from Mr. Carlos Iturralde Ballivián, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Bolivia

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa - Soweto Day, the Government and people of Bolivia reaffirm their full support for, and solidarity with, the South African people in their just struggle for civil, political and cultural freedoms. They hope that the practice of apartheid will be eliminated once and for all. At the same time, they reiterate their concern over the persistence of the hateful system of apartheid which violates the fundamental rights and freedoms of the majority of South Africans.

BRAZIL

Message from Mr. Francisco Rezek, Minister for External Relations of Brazil

[Original: English]

On the renewed occasion of this solemn meeting in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, I wish once more to express on behalf of the people and Government of Brazil our repudiation of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, in particular the

apartheid régime, and to express our hope that the democratic objectives pursued by the majority of the South African people will finally be met.

The practice of apartheid is an affront to human conscience and human dignity and represents the very opposite of Brazilian society, which prides itself on its multiracial character as an element of stability and social harmony. The Brazilian Government considers, moreover, that apartheid is irreconcilable with the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In that connection, it expresses once again its conviction that the international community should remain united in condemning that régime. It calls upon the Government of South Africa, furthermore, to expedite measures aimed at the prompt and total abolition of the practices of apartheid.

The Brazilian Government has observed the sanctions imposed on South Africa by the United Nations and has passed legislation prohibiting the exportation of petroleum, petroleum by-products and arms to South Africa. It has also prohibited cultural, artistic and sports exchanges with South Africa.

Brazil expresses its solidarity with the struggle of the South African people and hopes that it will soon be possible to welcome within the community of South Atlantic States a South Africa free of apartheid.

BURKINA FASO

Message from Captain Blaise Compaoré, President of the Popular Front, Head of State and Head of Government of Burkina Faso

[Original: French]

The observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa is indeed a most meaningful event for all peace-loving men, for men who value justice and freedom and have respect for human dignity.

This fourteenth anniversary of the Soweto massacres is, of course, a symbol, but, above all, it translates the resolve of the South African youth to pay any price in order to regain their dignity and freedom.

There is no longer anything today that can silence the legitimate revolt whose rumblings grow stronger every day in the countryside and cities of South Africa. It is the revolt of those out to win inalienable rights for the South African people.

Through me as their spokesman, the Popular Front, its Revolutionary Government and the people of Burkina Faso, firmly committed to freedom and human dignity, reaffirm their unqualified support for the valiant South African people in their struggle and reiterate their urgent appeal to all States, without exception, to be even more vigilant and to maintain comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa until such time as apartheid is totally abolished.

I should like to take this opportunity to reiterate my confidence in the Special Committee and my encouragement to it in its struggle against this scourge, which is a disgrace to all humanity.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Message from General André Kolingba, President of the Central African Republic

[Original: French]

The celebration, at this special meeting, of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, again gives me an opportunity to reiterate the solidarity of the people and Government of the Central African Republic with the South African people in their legitimate struggle to bring about the total eradication of apartheid.

The recent encouraging developments that have taken place in southern Africa, and particularly in South Africa, leading the South African Government on 11 February 1990 to take such positive steps as the release of Nelson Mandela and the legalization of opposition movements, cannot obscure the main goal, which is to secure the dismantling of apartheid, the total lifting of the state of emergency and the liberation of all political prisons, necessary conditions for the advent of a new, multi-racial, democratic society in South Africa with equal rights for all.

It is because of this fundamental fact that the Government of the Central African Republic remains steadfast in its position on the issue, and today, as we celebrate this International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, the international community should make a firm commitment to take further action so as to bring about the advent of such a society in the near future.

That is the wish which I formulate on this solemn occasion.

CHILE

Message from Mr. Patricio Alwyn, President of the Republic of Chile

[Original: Spanish]

In celebrating the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, Soweto Day, the new democratic Government of Chile feels duty-bound to affirm to the international community, through you, Chile's commitment to the cause of human rights, particularly to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

We see with particular interest and hope that ways to understanding are becoming visible in South Africa. Accordingly, we join with those countries which are seeking to encourage the political reforms that are necessary in order to totally dismantle the apartheid system and thereby bring about, as soon as

possible, a multi-racial, democratic, just and prosperous society in that country. Until that happens, Chile will support, within the United Nations and in all forums where it may be necessary, any initiative and action designed to end apartheid, and will fully abide by existing international agreements.

COLOMBIA

Message from Mr. Julio Londoño-Paredes, Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: Spanish]

The people of Colombia join with the communities and peoples that are still enduring the discriminatory consequences of apartheid. Loyal to the principle of respect for human dignity and as a multi-racial society, we wish to extend our assurances of support and solidarity particularly to the South African masses as we express our sympathy to them on the occasion of the celebration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa.

The struggles and sacrifices of the South African people provide an unparalleled example which serves as a major source of encouragement to all communities which are still suffering from injustice and discrimination. These many sacrifices have not been in vain; on the contrary they have consolidated a feeling of rejection and general condemnation of the practices of apartheid.

CUBA

Message from Mr. Isidoro Malmierca, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba

[Original: Spanish]

This year, on the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, as we commemorate the Soweto massacre, our South African brothers will receive from the United Nations a very warm and fraternal encouragement in their unswerving struggle to eradicate the inhuman system of apartheid that still exists in southern Africa.

The independence of Namibia is an important chapter in contemporary history, signifying as it does the liquidation of one of the last bastions of colonialism. However, those same reactionary interests which imposed the illegal occupation of Namibia for so many years, despite very strong protests from the international community, continue to resist the elimination of the racist system which caused the dastardly Soweto massacre.

The release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners and the recognition by the South African Government of the anti-apartheid organizations was achieved as a result of the selfless and victorious struggle of the people of South Africa and the international solidarity to which it has given rise.

It is essential that the South African Government take steps to help accelerate the process of negotiations with the black South African patriots that was initiated recently with the talks between the delegations headed by Nelson Mandela and President F. W. de Klerk, so that the process may become really and truly irreversible. In order to do this the just conditions demanded by the representatives of the black South African people, who have given irrefutable proof of their desire to shift these negotiations on the road towards a democratic and non-racist South Africa, must be met.

The need for continued action to bring about the eradication of apartheid is becoming clearer and more urgent. It is the duty of those of us who have supported the heroic struggle of the black South African people and it is also the duty of the United Nations which has served as one of the ways of demonstrating the international solidarity with that people. It is necessary to maintain in effect the condemnation of the system of apartheid and the sanctions applied to that régime.

It is also necessary to consider applying more energetic measures, such as those envisaged in Chapter VII of the Charter, until such time as racism disappears completely from South Africa.

I have the honor to reiterate, through you, to the representatives of the South African liberation movement and to our brothers, the South African people, that the people and Government of Cuba are prepared to continue providing moral and material support for their noble struggle against racism as we have been doing thus far.

EGYPT

Message from Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of Egypt and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity

[Original: Arabic]

I am pleased, in my capacity as current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity and on behalf of the people of Egypt, to convey to the fraternal people of South Africa greetings of esteem and a pledge of support on the occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa. We are confident that all the African peoples and Governments will express their respect and support for the struggle of their brothers in that cherished part of the African continent for their legitimate right to equality, freedom and dignity.

The long African struggle for independence has now moved from a victorious stage to a subsequent stage, so that last March saw the fall of the last bastions of colonialism in the territory of the great Continent. However, the sons of Africa, who are joined in this by the international community with all its various orientations, believe that a final stage is still to come in order that the victory of the continent may be complete, namely the fall of the racist apartheid régime in

South Africa and the restoration by its struggling people of their full political, economic and social rights.

Africa is following the current developments in South Africa with concern and confirms its unswerving resolve to bring down the odious apartheid régime. Although current developments suggest that a just end to the tragedy of the people of South Africa is nearer than at any time in the past, the African peoples cannot abandon their caution and watchfulness, for the lessons and experiences of the past make this caution and watchfulness imperative.

We call upon the Government of South Africa to adhere to the historic spirit of bravery and to relinquish finally the apartheid régime that is contrary to human rights; all religions and creeds agree that equality is a primary and fundamental right of man. We call upon it to put a speedy end to the phenomenon of apartheid and racism and the related unjust and inhuman statutes and laws. What that Government has embarked on so far merits encouragement, but it still falls short of meeting the demands formulated by the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly and comprised in the Harare Declaration concerning the creation of a suitable climate for the peaceful settlement of the racist struggle based on dialogue and negotiation between all parties concerned.

Africa looks forward to the not too distant future when all races and elements in South Africa will live in peace and security in a climate in which equality and freedom prevail and all members of its people enjoy the same rights. Experience has proved that security and freedom are inseparable and that restricting them to a specific sector of the people to the exclusion of another produces only violence and instability.

That bitter experience has brought aspects of violence and instability to the neighbouring African States and has stood between them and their ambitious programmes for development and progress, after the removal of the nightmare of colonialism, when they would have liked to have had the opportunity to devote themselves to projects for modernization and catching up with the contemporary spirit of progress. Perhaps the time has now come when those peoples will be able to confront the great and crucial challenges facing them.

Some weeks ago, Cairo was proud to receive the great militant, Nelson Mandela, who has become a human legend and a unique example of constancy to principle and sacrifice for it. His struggle has become a rare and historic battle confirming once again that the resolve of peoples is insurmountable and that their victory is certain, however long it may take.

The whole of Africa once again affirms on this historic occasion its unswerving resolve to stand steadfastly behind the struggle of its brothers in South Africa until victory.

I may perhaps take this opportunity to congratulate you and, through you, the Special Committee against Apartheid on its pioneer role in mobilizing world public opinion for the eradication of a blot of shame on human history in solidarity with the cause of those struggling against apartheid.

GHANA

Message from Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council of Ghana

[Original: English]

On this memorable occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, I wish, on behalf of the people and Government of Ghana, and on my own behalf, to reaffirm Ghana's unflinching commitment to total liberation in southern Africa and the attainment of a non-racial democratic society in a unified South Africa.

Fourteen years to the day, the apartheid régime of South Africa shocked the world by the massacre of unarmed and defenceless South Africans, notably school children, protesting the racist educational system in South Africa.

Recent developments in southern Africa, in particular Namibia's independence and the release of Nelson Mandela along with some political prisoners, and the unbanning of political organizations, have strengthened the resolve of the majority of the people of South Africa in their struggle to eradicate apartheid and to establish democracy.

But the road ahead is still fraught with difficulties. As we observe Soweto Day, therefore, it is even more urgent for the international community to ensure that the hopeful political process is not undermined and that the goals of the international community and the majority of South Africans are realized as soon as possible. To achieve this objective, we must continue to exercise utmost vigilance and remain supportive of all genuine international efforts by maintaining pressure on the apartheid régime through the imposition of sanctions and other appropriate measures.

We would like to use this occasion to salute all those who have, and continue to, contribute towards international efforts to end injustice, inequality and indignity based on racism and racial discrimination in South Africa; we salute, first of all, the heroic people of South Africa and their liberation and mass movements; we also salute the memory of fallen heroes and, above all, those who have sacrificed their lives in order that the struggling people of South Africa may live in freedom, equality and dignity.

On behalf of the people and Government of Ghana, I wish also to pay a deserving tribute to the Special Committee against Apartheid for its constructive role in sensitizing international public opinion to the evils of apartheid and to reassure the Committee of the continued co-operation and support of Ghana, particularly as the United Nations monitors the implementation of the declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its sixteenth special session on 14 December 1989.

HUNGARY

Message from the Government of Hungary

[Original: English]

The Government of the Republic of Hungary extends its respectful greetings to the solemn meeting of the Special Committee against Apartheid in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa.

The Hungarian Government continues to attach special attention to the respect and full implementation of universal human rights and fundamental freedoms and does not fail to condemn resolutely all kinds of discrimination, including apartheid. It considers that the early and complete elimination of apartheid should remain the firm political objective of the international community. In this respect the Hungarian Government deems it encouraging that certain measures in the direction of dismantling the apartheid system have already been introduced, and it expects that South Africa will find a negotiated solution to become a united non-racial and democratic State.

JAMAICA

Message from the Government of Jamaica

[Original: English]

Today, the Government and people of Jamaica join the international community in observance of Soweto Day, to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa. This occasion provides us with yet another opportunity to reaffirm our unswerving commitment to the struggle against the vicious system of apartheid.

Events in the black township of Soweto over the last three decades stand as evidence of the level of injustice, racial discrimination and social oppression to which the black majority population of South Africa has been subjected under apartheid.

Whilst we note the continued practice of various forms of racial discrimination in many part of the world, nowhere are the manifestations of racism so blatant and so dehumanizing as in South Africa, where the apartheid system was institutionalized 40 years ago. South African blacks have no political voice, no social mobility and are denied even basic human rights and fundamental freedoms. However, 1990 has already seen many positive actions in recent developments in South Africa - the unbanning of anti-apartheid groups, the release of some political prisoners (including Nelson Mandela) and the partial lifting of the state of emergency.

What is needed now more than ever is concerted action by the international community to bring about the eradication of the system of apartheid.

The Government of Jamaica, while welcoming the changes in South Africa, reaffirms its full support for the call of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) for continued mandatory sanctions. The Government of Jamaica commends ANC and other anti-apartheid groups for their dedication to the struggle against racial discrimination.

On this occasion - Soweto Day - we reaffirm our solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa and it is our hope that it will be in this decade that the people of South Africa will be given the right to a dignified life, liberty and equality.

KUWAIT

Message from the Government of the State of Kuwait

[Original: Arabic]

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

The international community observes Soweto Day on 16 June each year in order that the example may remain alive in all minds' consciousnesses and so that oblivion may not overtake such painful lessons in the injustice of man to his brother and the sterile attempts by the cliques of despotism, remnants of bygone ages, to erase the identity of the true owners of the land and deprive them of their right to self-determination, administration of their own affairs and enjoyment of fundamental freedoms.

Soweto Day, the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, is the day on which we salute the memory of the massacre of innocent school children at the hands of the forces of the odious apartheid régime in South Africa. That repugnant crime took place 14 years ago, adding another black page to the record of Fascist crimes committed by the forces of Pretoria against millions of innocent members of the overwhelming majority of the population of that ancient African country. The event was by all standards and in all dimensions a blatant and flagrant example of collective slaughter and savage annihilation of the black population in their country, on their land and amidst their homes.

Accordingly, Kuwait avails itself of the occasion of this anniversary to affirm through this message of solidarity that the end of tyranny, oppression and despotism is known and proven and does not vary from place or from time to time and that the sole way in that country is the total elimination of the policy of apartheid and the establishment of sound democratic majority rule. Peace can prevail only where there is respect for human life, freedom and dignity and for equality among all men without discrimination. When that is achieved, the appropriate conditions are available for the attainment of progress, economic development and social well-being for all.

The just liberation struggle of the people of South Africa is a struggle for peace, freedom, dignity, justice, equality and self-determination. These are the lofty principles for which our international Organization was established and which

are embodied in its Charter. They are the principles on which international pacts and customs are based. Hence the overwhelming and firm international support for the cause of this people and its noble struggle. Kuwait is proud and honoured to have been constantly in the vanguard of countries that support that cause and that struggle with all sincerity, conviction and belief.

As Kuwait participates in the observance of this anniversary and affirms its steadfast solidarity with the oppressed majority in South Africa, it feels compelled to address its appeal once again to all members of the international community, particularly the major industrialized Western States, to continue to impose sanctions and economic embargoes against the apartheid régime in accordance with the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy and to continue to impose them until rights are restored to their rightful owners, the curtain finally falls on apartheid and its odious policies, and these are replaced by legitimate majority rule.

The importance and value of the continuation of these sanctions must be clear to all States, and no State must impetuously proceed to lift them or ease them because of the reform projects, which are so far incomplete, or because of non-comprehensive decisions such as the partial lifting of the general state of emergency. Without full and effective implementation of international resolutions calling for the termination of all policies of apartheid and the establishment of national majority rule, any change of policy on international sanctions would be a step in the wrong direction and would halt the momentum of events. Kuwait for its part will continue its sustained efforts with regard to the oil embargo, inter alia, through its leadership role in the United Nations international Intergovernmental Group, in order that it may be able to make a practical and effective contribution to this just cause in accordance with its principles, obligations and duties.

Kuwait will not relinquish any effort or desist from any endeavour that will serve the goals and plans of the international community for the elimination of apartheid and the triumph of the just cause of the people of South Africa.

LIBERIA

Message from Mr. Samuel Kanyon Doe, President of the Republic of Liberia

[Original: English]

On this solemn occasion commemorating the brutal and senseless murder by the racist Pretoria régime of peaceful demonstrators, including men, women and children, in Soweto, the Government and people of Liberia join me in reaffirming our total commitment to the struggle for the complete elimination of apartheid and racist minority rule in South Africa.

It must be recalled, with the utmost outrage and indignation, that the only crime of the Soweto demonstrators was their opposition to the obnoxious and

dehumanizing apartheid system, which is the pillar of South Africa's domestic policies.

This occasion should therefore serve as a constant reminder of the evils of the apartheid system and the indignities to which it continues to subject the black population of South Africa. But, above all, it should provide the opportunity for rededication to the task of dismantling the abhorrent and anachronistic apartheid structure.

In this connection, we reaffirm our solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa who suffer the yoke and persecutions of apartheid. Additionally, we renew our solidarity with the front-line States, who bear the brunt of the aggressive and destabilization policies of the racist minority régime in assisting the liberation struggle in southern Africa.

The duty and responsibility of the international community not to relent in designing measures to end apartheid must be renewed and re-emphasized. Notwithstanding changes and reforms now taking place in South Africa, we should not forget that apartheid cannot be amended or reformed; it must be abolished completely and a free, non-racial democratic society must be established in South Africa. Until then, the imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against the racist régime should remain constantly under consideration by the international community.

Liberia remains firm and resolute in its opposition to apartheid, persistent in its call for its eradication and unflinching in its support of the liberation movements in their struggle to end this evil system.

MADAGASCAR

Message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar

[Original: French]

On the occasion of the celebration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa - Soweto Day - the Government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar joins the international community in expressing yet again its support for the legitimate aspirations of the black majority in South Africa. While it is true that the reforms undertaken in recent months by the South African Government - such as the release of Nelson Mandela, the legalization of all banned opposition parties, the release of political prisoners, the desegregation of schools and hospitals and, just recently, the lifting of the state of emergency - are encouraging signs leading towards the establishment of a non-racial and democratic society, it is none the less true that much remains to be done to ensure that fundamental and irreversible changes take place in South Africa.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, for its part, welcomes this positive evolution of the situation in South Africa and encourages the South African authorities to persevere on this road. This evolution

demonstrates that the sacrifices made by the Soweto martyrs and other freedom fighters, who believed steadfastly in the advent of a society that would conform to their aspirations, have not been in vain.

The international community as a whole must pursue its efforts to assist the struggling people of South Africa until the apartheid system has been totally eradicated.

MALAYSIA

Message from Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia

[Original: English]

Malaysia joins the international community today in commemorating the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa. This day brings to memory the brutal massacre of innocent African civilians, including schoolchildren, by the South African police at Soweto 14 years ago, a bitter memory that lingers and continues to evoke the strongest indignation of the international community. Malaysia reiterates its condemnation of the Soweto massacre and the continued oppression of the black majority of South Africans under the system of apartheid.

Today is a day of remembrance not only to those who lost their lives in Soweto, but also to the enormous sacrifices of those who have waged a relentless struggle against the abhorrent policy and practices of apartheid in the cause of freedom, justice and human dignity. Their valiant struggle has not been in vain, for changes are already occurring in South Africa. This struggle should continue, with the strong support of the international community so that apartheid can be banished once and for all from the face of this earth and the oppressed people of South Africa can exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, enjoy their fundamental freedoms and regain their human dignity.

While changes have taken place in South Africa, apartheid still remains. The régime in Pretoria must take major steps to bring about the immediate and total eradication of the system of apartheid to enable the establishment in South Africa of a free, united and democratic society.

Malaysia welcomed with immense pride the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela, whose personal sacrifices and vision embodies the hope of millions of South Africans for freedom and justice in South Africa. Nevertheless, Malaysia urges the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners and all persons detained under the state of emergency. Similarly, Malaysia calls for the extension to the entire territory of South Africa of the lifting of the state of emergency, which remains in force in some parts of the country. Malaysia urges the Pretoria régime not to try to impede the process of change towards majority rule in South Africa.

The Government and people of Malaysia remain steadfast and fully committed in their opposition to the apartheid system. We will work in solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa and their able leaders as well as with the rest of

the international community to ensure that apartheid would be totally eliminated and that South Africa could truly become a non-racial and democratic nation, taking its rightful place in the community of nations soon. We continue to believe that the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions on the Pretoria régime is necessary so as to apply pressure on the régime to respect the will of the majority of the South African population.

MALDIVES

Message from Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of Maldives

[Original: English]

It is, in one respect, an admission of human regression that the international community has to dedicate itself year after year, to mark a day or days, under different names, in order to bring to the notice of the world in a forceful manner the struggle of the black people of South Africa to rid themselves of the gross atrocities that are being committed against them. Yet, it is also a prominent symbol of dedication by the comity of nations to the cause of black South Africans and of their unwavering support to them in their valiant battle against the abominable malignancy of apartheid based on racism and racial discrimination.

Today, we can claim that we see the beginning of the end of that evil system, for it is a fact supported by human experience over the ages that no evil can continue for ever in the face of concerted resistance. However faltering it may seem, a move is made within the core of those who had for years made life unbearable for these suppressed people, to dismantle some parts of their evil system. Nevertheless, we are far from victory and thus from celebrations. Although the international community has seen the success of its endeavours to dismantle apartheid in the form of a free Nelson Mandela, we should not forget that the sufferings of these people are far from over. The system still continues. The white minority régime perseveres in inflicting inhuman conditions upon the black people of South Africa. They have to struggle hard for their basic human rights, which most of the world take for granted. It is indeed a living tragedy to the entire human race that a part of mankind should be exposed to such suffering, exploitation and degradation. It is vital that the world continues the hard work against such evils if we are to see an end to this oppression.

As we commemorate once again the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, the Government and the people of the Republic of Maldives reaffirm their unanimous support to the black people of South Africa in their endeavour to attain their inalienable and long-denied rights. The noble ideal of a South Africa where all its citizens live together in peace and harmony is certainly not unattainable. Let us rededicate ourselves to make that day a reality in the near future.

MALI

Message from General Moussa Traoré, President of the Republic of Mali

[Original: French]

As we meet to commemorate the Soweto massacre, the people of Mali join in the manifestations of solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa. Today, 16 June, we remember the hundreds of young people who were struck down in cold blood by the racist South African police simply because they rejected the alienating educational system which was being imposed on them. I am happy, on this solemn occasion, to pay tribute to the gallantry and heroism of the oppressed people of South Africa who, refusing to draw back in the face of sacrifices and suffering, have steadily intensified the fight for justice in South Africa.

I should also like to pay a stirring tribute to the memory of the thousands of South African patriots who have shed their blood for the ideal of freedom and justice. The United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid has always given decisive support for the just struggle of the South African people, on the one hand by promoting, throughout the world, public awareness of the true nature of the odious system of apartheid and, on the other, strengthening the front line against racial discrimination. While welcoming the release of certain political prisoners, including the great patriot, Nelson Mandela, and the measures taken by the de Klerk Government to lift the state of emergency, to abrogate certain segregationist laws and to legalize the anti-apartheid movements, Mali feels that the struggle is not yet over. It must continue until the total eradication of apartheid has been secured and until the advent of a democratic multi-racial society in South Africa. The positive developments which we are witnessing at this time in that country, starting with the opening, on 2 May 1990, of the dialogue between representatives of the black people and representatives of the white minority, should have as their aim the dismantling of the apartheid system. In order to achieve that aim it is necessary to keep up the international pressure on the Pretoria régime. In that connection, events seem to confirm that economic sanctions are the most effective means of exerting pressure. For that reason the international community must maintain the sanctions against the apartheid régime.

MAURITIUS

Message from Mr. Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius

[Original: English]

Soweto Day is always a special occasion for the international community and all peace-loving nations to express solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa.

I am therefore particularly honoured to do so on behalf of the Government and people of Mauritius. As a neighbouring African brother State, Mauritius

commemorates this historic date by reaffirming its total support for the liberation of South Africa and the dismantling of apartheid.

Soweto revealed to the world the aspirations of millions of black South Africans and their brutal repression.

Today, the process of change has begun in South Africa under the enlightened leadership of comrade Nelson Mandela. Although enormous difficulties still remain in the way of constructive negotiations, significant progress should be achieved if a climate of understanding continues to prevail.

Let us be inspired by the sacrifices of the people of Soweto and strive tirelessly for a united, non-racial and democratic Azania where fundamental freedoms and human rights would be firmly entrenched.

MEXICO

Message from the Government of Mexico

[Original: Spanish]

The Government of Mexico has the honour to participate in the solemn observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa - Soweto Day. On this occasion, when the international community remembers the Soweto victims, Mexico again reiterates its rejection of the apartheid régime and its support for, and solidarity with, the South African people in their struggle to secure the establishment of a just, democratic and peaceful society in their country.

The apartheid system which is being maintained by the Pretoria régime represents a violation of the most fundamental human rights of the black majority in South Africa. It is the duty of all Member States of the United Nations and of the international community as a whole to direct their efforts towards securing the final eradication of the current apartheid régime in South Africa.

The measures recently adopted by the minority in South Africa, such as the release of the South African leader, Nelson Mandela, are a product of the great pressure placed by the international community on Pretoria. Now more than ever, Mexico considers that strengthening of this pressure will help to secure the complete disappearance of the apartheid régime in a short space of time.

In remembering the Soweto victims, Mexico reaffirms its faith in universal respect for the human being and its determination to preserve future generations from the scourge of war, which objectives can be fully achieved only through the final disappearance of the apartheid régime. Mexico urges the international community not to ease up on its efforts to achieve those goals and it reiterates its unconditional support for all measures taken by the black majority in South Africa to secure the establishment of a just, democratic and peaceful society in that country.

PAKISTAN

Message from Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, Pakistan joins the international community to pay homage to the memory of the martyrs who laid down their lives in Soweto 14 years ago in defence of equality, freedom and human dignity. The callous murder of innocent men, women and children by the forces of the racist minority régime in Pretoria was a manifestation of its brutality, ruthlessness and contempt for all norms of civilized behaviour.

Belief in the equality of man is a cornerstone of Islam as also a universally accepted norm. It was, therefore, only natural that ours was amongst the first voices to be raised against apartheid at all international forums. It is our view that the international community must give its full support to the people of South Africa and their national liberation movements in their just struggle against racism, inequality and the denial of their fundamental rights. The persistent refusal of the racist régime to implement the decisions of the United Nations underscores the need for the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the racist Pretoria régime.

The valiant struggle of freedom fighters of South Africa and the pressure of international public opinion has forced the racist Pretoria régime to release Mr. Nelson Mandela unconditionally and to hold talks with him. It is our firm conviction that the dismantling of apartheid and the establishment of majority rule in South Africa are inevitable since the irrepressible urge of the people for liberty and freedom cannot be fettered for long.

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the unswerving commitment of the Government and people of Pakistan to the cause of equality and freedom in South Africa and our continued firm support to the heroic struggle of its people for eradicating the scourge of apartheid.

PERU

Message from Mr. Guillermo Larco-Cox, President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of another anniversary of the tragic events of 16 June 1976, the President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Peruvian Government, sends a message of brotherly solidarity to the fraternal people of South Africa reaffirming his unswerving commitment to the United Nations initiatives aimed at eliminating the universally condemned policy of apartheid.

Regrettably, the institutional pillars of the apartheid system are still in place, especially the repressive laws which uphold it. The events of recent months strengthen our conviction that the international community must continue its efforts until the emergence of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa.

PHILIPPINES

Message from Mrs. Corazón Aquino, President of the Republic of the Philippines

[Original: English]

Today, on the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, it is fitting that we rededicate ourselves to bringing a speedy end to the apartheid system. Apartheid, the most flagrant vestige of the practice of racial discrimination, has for far loo long oppressed and dehumanized the people of South Africa. Soon, the final demise of apartheid will be a reality.

A number of events in South Africa brings hope that we shall someday see that country evolve into a united democratic and non-racial society. Earlier this year, the Philippines welcomed the release of South African political prisoners, who had long been victims of the scourge of apartheid. The Philippines followed keenly the recently concluded talks between the representatives of the Government of South Africa and the African National Congress of South Africa. We are heartened by the commitment of both parties towards the resolution of the existing climate of violence and intimidation in South Africa. We hail the same commitment to stability and to a peaceful process of negotiation to bring about justice and peace in that country.

The Philippines remains committed in its support for the struggle of the people of South Africa to free their land from racism. We are at one with the people of South Africa in the belief that all people are equal and have equal rights to human dignity and respect, regardless of colour, sex, race or creed. On this occasion, the people and Government of the Philippines convey to the people of South Africa sincerest wishes for their final liberation from apartheid, which shall herald a new era not only for the people of South Africa, but for all humanity.

SENEGAL

Message from Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal

[Original: French]

The observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Fraternal South African people, which this year coincides with the fourteenth anniversary of the Soweto massacre, gives me a further opportunity to solemnly reaffirm the constant

and active support of the Senegalese people and Government for the struggle against all forms of racism and racial discrimination in general, and in particular, for the fight to dismantle the despicable apartheid system in South Africa.

Through its firm commitment to this fight, and its unshakeable faith in the legitimacy of its cause, the South African people, under the courageous and clear-sighted leadership of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), and with the firm support of anti-apartheid organizations, has greatly contributed to a universal awareness of the need to put an end to apartheid, which is a crime against humanity.

The victories achieved in South Africa itself and in Namibia by the valiant freedom-fighters, with the active support of the international community, have forced the supporters of apartheid to conclude that they can no longer persist in going against the tide of history.

Accordingly, the measures which the Pretoria régime has been induced to take since the beginning of 1990, such as lifting the ban on ANC, the release of several political prisoners, including the historic leader Nelson Mandela, and the partial suspension of the state of emergency, can be regarded as significant steps towards establishing the requisite conditions for genuine negotiations with a view to the full and final eradication of the scourge of apartheid.

For this reason, I should again like to call upon the international community and all the forces of peace and progress to maintain the sanctions against the Pretoria régime, so long as the latter has not firmly and concretely committed itself to an irreversible process leading to the establishment of a non-racial, democratic and egalitarian South Africa.

Senegal, faithful to its policy of respect for and promotion of human and people's rights and solidarity with just causes, will continue to support all actions to promote the total elimination of apartheid, so that the triumph of justice, freedom and democracy over oppression, injustice and racism will also be recalled in history, alongside the dark and painful memory of scenes of violence and other massacres like that of Soweto.

On this Day of Solidarity, I take special satisfaction in paying a resounding tribute to the United Nations Secretary-General and the Special Committee against Apartheid for their tireless and unceasing efforts on behalf of the restoration of justice and peace in South Africa.

The Senegalese people and Government hereby reaffirm their unfailing and total support for them.

SUDAN

Message from General Omer Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir, President of the Revolutionary National Salvation Council of the Sudan

[Original: English]

The observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, otherwise known as "Soweto Day", is indeed an opportunity that we, on behalf of ourselves and on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of the Sudan, would like to associate ourselves with others in appreciating the relentless efforts exerted by the international community in general and the Special Committee against Apartheid in the struggle for the total eradication of the obnoxious system of apartheid in South Africa.

Of direct relevance to the occasion is the historic declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted by consensus by the General Assembly on 14 December 1989 at its sixteenth special session. The Declaration, among other things, dwelt on measures to be taken in order to create a favourable climate conducive to negotiations and on the process and objectives of such negotiations towards an early eradication of apartheid. The Declaration, undoubtedly, reflected the international community's support to the South African people in their effort to build a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

Since the adoption of the aforesaid Declaration, several positive developments have taken place in South Africa: the lifting of the ban on political organizations including the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), the release of some political prisoners, notably Mr. Nelson Mandela, after 27 years of incarceration. The preliminary talks already started in May between the Pretoria régime and representatives of ANC on a common commitment towards stability and the peaceful process of negotiation.

But, however positive developments in South Africa may be, the régime has not yet shown itself ready to abolish the underpinnings of its apartheid system. Hence, it is imperative that the world community induce the Government of South Africa to take the remaining necessary steps spelled out in the declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its sixteenth special session: the immediate lifting of the state of emergency, the release of all political prisoners and the repealing of the Security Act. Until these steps are taken, effective international pressure on South Africa must be maintained.

While commemorating the Internatioanl Day of Solidarity with the struggling People of South Africa, we would like, at this point of time, to call the attention of the international community to the continuous human sufferings inflicted on the Arab population by the occupying Power, Israel, in the occupied Arab territories. We therefore call upon the international community to ensure protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, pursuant to the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

SURINAME

Message from Mr. Ramsewak Shankar, President of the Republic of Suriname

[Original: English]

On the solemn occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, I would like, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Suriname, to convey to the Special Committee against Apartheid our sincere appreciation for its contribution to the international campaign against the nefarious system of apartheid.

The Government of Suriname also avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate its support to the international campaign aimed at the elimination of this system of profound injustice and the bringing about of a democratic South Africa based on majority rule, political freedom and equality of man.

The recent political developments in South Africa are encouraging and justify the hope that democracy will soon reign in South Africa.

The international community must not relax its efforts but must continue to exert pressure on the Pretoria régime in order to materialize soon the freedom looming on the horizon.

To this end, the constructive contribution of the Special Committee against Apartheid remains crucial.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Message from Mr. Farouk Al-Shara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, I am pleased to convey to you the support of the Government and people of the Syrian Arab Republic for the struggle of the people and national liberation movements of South Africa and for all nationalist forces and activities seeking an end to the apartheid régime and the establishment of a democratic society free from apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination.

My Government reiterates its firm support for your Committee, of which my country has had the honour to be a member, and for the Committee's efforts to expose the spurious nature of racist régimes and the hostility they show to peoples in their defiance of the principles of international law and their disregard of humanitarian values, the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all the relevant international instruments and, first and foremost, the resolutions of the General Assembly on the elimination of apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination.

Your meeting today (Soweto Day) in solidarity with the people of South Africa is an important occasion on which the international community commemorates this tragic and painful event, reaffirms its condemnation both of apartheid as a crime against humanity and human dignity and of the racist minority régime in Pretoria and its repressive and terrorist acts against the majority population in South Africa and renews its commitment to support all forms of legitimate struggle against that racist régime and for self-determination, freedom and human rights.

The world is now following with appreciation and admiration the victories being won in the heroic struggle by all the parties, national, workers' and student forces and mass organizations of the people of South Africa to end the apartheid régime and establish its new democratic society. The flame of battle which remained alight in the mind and feelings of Nelson Mandela throughout the long years of his captivity will continue to burn and remain a source of inspiration for all those in the world who are struggling for freedom and national dignity.

We wish to reiterate our endorsement of the Declaration issued by the Organization of African Unity Ad Hoc Committee on Southern Africa on the question of South Africa, adopted at Harare on 21 August 1989, of the resolution adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on 7 September 1989 and of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixteenth special session on 14 December 1989. We believe that the implementation of these resolutions, together with the other related resolutions of the United Nations, represents the best way of removing the apartheid régime.

The fact that Arabs and Africans are as one in struggling against crimes of racism and inhumane practices requires that both the Pretoria and the Tel Aviv régimes and the co-operation between them, particularly in the military and nuclear fields be condemned. This co-operation was condemned at the ninth summit conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and in United Nations resolutions, the latest being General Assembly resolution 44/27 F, on the grounds that it represents an assault on peoples' aspirations to freedom and peace.

In this context, the most eloquent assessment of the nature and extent of co-operation between the two racist régimes was expressed by Mr. Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe, on 13 December 1989 at the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly. He said that "Pretoria has regained its supremacy in the skies over southern Africa through its acquisition of the Jericho-type intermediate-range strategic missiles, which are capable of hitting all our capitals. Thus the strategic gains of Cuito cuanavale have been negated by Israeli support. Israel has chosen to travel such a low road by propping up the defences of racism."

The Syrian Arab Republic, under the leadership of President Hafez al-Hassad, will continue to support the struggle of the people of South Africa until the apartheid régime is eliminated. It will also continue to support the African front-line States and calls upon the Security Council to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanction against the Pretoria régime in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

TUNISIA

Message from Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia

[Original: French]

As is its custom, Tunisia is commemorating Soweto Day in honour of the martyrs who on 16 June 1976 fell victim to the lethal bullets of the forces of the South African racist régime.

The commemoration of the event is this year marked by the South African people's successes against the upholders of oppression and repression, such as the release of their leader Nelson Mandela and the legalization of liberation movements.

However, it must be noted that the apartheid system still remains in place and that the South African people continues to suffer the segregationist policy of the Pretoria régime.

Tunisia believes that the international community must maintain its unequivocal and resolute support for the struggle of the African National Congress and the anti-apartheid movements to eliminate racial segregation and win respect for human rights in South Africa.

The harsh struggle being waged by our African brothers is in no way different from that being undertaken by our Palestinian brothers. Both groups are fighting for the same ideals: freedom, dignity and tolerance.

Tunisia takes the opportunity presented by this commemoration to pay tribute to the courageous martyrs of Soweto and to reaffirm its support and assistance for freedom fighters in South Africa and Palestine.

UGANDA

Message from Mr. Yoweri K. Museveni, President of Uganda

[Original: English]

As we observe the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (Soweto Day), I wish, on behalf of the Government and people of Uganda to congratulate the members of the Special Committee as well as the supporting staff for the commendable job they have done over the years to sensitize the international community to the evil policies of the system of apartheid and to mobilize world-wide forces to fight the system until it is totally dismantled.

I salute our brothers and sisters in South Africa, who have decisively rejected the injustices of a minority, racist ruling clique, its collaborators and backers, and have waged an armed struggle to assert their rights in their own land. We have been witnesses to the independence of Namibia, born of the people's

struggle. Nobody can stop the inevitable success of the people's struggle in neighbouring South Africa.

We have heard voices from certain quarters calling for the lifting of economic sanctions against the racist régime as a reward for the cosmetic changes that are currently being touted by the architects and practitioners of apartheid. This is no time for lifting sanctions. The pillars of apartheid are steady in their place. Those who are calling for ending sanctions are motivated by greed and considerations of their family businesses.

It will be for the majority of the people of South Africa to blow the whistle to put an end to pressure and sanctions against South Africa when they are satisfied that they control the State machinery to transform South Africa into a free, non-racial and democratic society.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Message from Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, President of the United Republic of Tanzania

[Original: English]

On this International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (Soweto Day), I would like, on behalf of the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania and on my own behalf, to convey through you, our militant salutations to our comrades in South Africa.

The recent developments inside South Africa are a direct outcome of a combination of pressures, including the Soweto uprising of 1976, being exerted on the racist régime by the struggling people of South Africa and the international community. Those developments, however, only meet some of the conditions demanded by the international community as a prerequisite for genuine negotiations. Until all conditions have been met, the international community must resist any temptation to relax pressure on South Africa, because to do so would almost certainly abort the process for change that we would all like to see continue.

Whilst we in the United Republic of Tanzania welcome the series of measures that have been taken by the racist Pretoria régime, such as the unbanning of anti-apartheid movements, the release of some political prisoners and the partial lifting of the state of emergency, we wish to emphasize that those measures fall short of the package called for by the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa. Those measures do not fulfil the conditions set for the start of genuine and serious negotiations. We note for example, that political trials and executions have not ended, political exiles are not yet free to return without the threat of being arrested and troops have not been removed from all townships.

So as the United Republic of Tanzania salutes the people of South Africa and congratulates them on their steadfastness in the face of oppression and humiliation, we call upon the international community to maintain, at the very

least, political and economic pressure against the South African régime to ensure that it moves to eradicate the abhorrent system of apartheid.

The United Republic of Tanzania resolutely supports the struggle of the South African people to eliminate apartheid. In this regard, I would like to ensure the Special Committee that the United Republic of Tanzania will continue to support the work of the Committee until apartheid has been eradicated.

ZAMBIA

Message from Mr. Kenneth D. Kaunda, President of the Republic of Zambia and Chairman of the front-line States of Southern Africa

[Original: English]

I have the honour on this solemn occasion, as the world observes the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (Soweto Day), to express most sincerely Zambia's deep appreciation of the work of the Special Committee against Apartheid. Since its creation, the Special Committee has been instrumental in sensitizing the international community with regard to the plight of the black majority in South Africa, who continue to suffer under the oppressive apartheid system. The indignities that are daily visited upon them are most degrading.

On this important occasion, it is fitting, therefore, to recall that the General Assembly has condemned the system of apartheid as a crime against humanity. It is a system by which racism and racial discrimination are institutionalized. Indeed, it is a system under which the inalienable rights of the black majority continue to be trampled upon with impunity by the South African racist régime.

Today the world is reliving the memories of the tragic events of Soweto. On 16 June 1976, thousands of schoolchildren gathered to protest the inferior education in black schools. Without warning, the South African police opened fire, killing in cold blood scores of innocent little ones and maiming many of them. We in Zambia shared an immediate condemnation of this barbaric act and appealed to the international community to take drastic measures, including the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against racist South Africa to speed up the ending of this apartheid evil.

I wish to reiterate that apartheid remains the root cause of tension and conflict in South Africa. Over the years, the United Nations and the rest of mankind have demanded, among other things, the release of all political prisoners as a prerequisite to creating the conditions necessary for meaningful negotiations. Although Nelson Mandela and other officials of the African National Congress of South Africa have been released, thousands of other political prisoners still remain in South African gaols. Apartheid laws, such as the Group Areas Act, remain in force. So far, the conditions set forth in the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa adopted by the General Assembly at its sixteenth special session in December 1989

have as yet not been fully met. Hence, there is an imperative need to continue with the economic and financial sanctions already in place against apartheid until the mass political organizations taking part in the negotiations have declared that the destruction of apartheid is irreversible. In our view, the repeal of all Draconian laws would signal an irreversible stage in the negotiations justifying a re-examination of the existing measures against apartheid South Africa. Until then, sanctions against South Africa must be maintained. To lift sanctions now is, without a doubt, a serious betrayal of the liberation struggle in South Africa. Indeed, it would be disastrous to the very initiative that is in progress at this moment.

The international community has a grave responsibility to ensure the total eradication of apartheid so that the people of South Africa as a whole will be given an opportunity to determine freely the destiny of their country in a non-racial and democratic society.

In 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in order to ensure the sanctity of fundamental human liberties and freedom. Zambia remains fully committed to this Declaration. We believe that the scrupulous adherence to the principles enshrined in that important Declaration would eliminate racism and racial discrimination, thus ensuring social harmony everywhere. This is a noble ideal, which must enjoy the support of all freedom-loving peoples everywhere.

A legendary revolutionary leader whose great organization represents the embodiment and vision of the South African people will soon address the General Assembly of the United Nations. I am referring to my dear brother, colleague and fellow freedom-fighter, Nelson Mandela. I wish to state that we in southern Africa expect that the Special Committee, as the expert body in the United Nations on apartheid, will ensure the wide dissemination of his recommendations so that international public opinion will continue to be undivided on this important question of our time.

In conclusion, let me express our appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Special Committee for all they have done to ensure that the sufferings of the oppressed people of South Africa are brought to the attention of the international community. To the Secretary-General of the United Nations we say, continue to persevere with your tireless efforts aimed at the complete eradication of apartheid. The winds of change have torn down the barriers of divisions in Europe. It won't be long before these tearing winds begin to blow in the direction of South Africa.

II. MESSAGES FROM NON-MEMBER STATES

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Message from Mr. Kim Yong Nam, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, I extend unreserved support and solidarity to the South African people in their just struggle for abolishing the apartheid system and building a free, democratic society.

Some positive developments are taking place now in South Africa as a result of the prolonged struggle of the South African and other progressive people of the world.

However, racism is still practised and the freedom and democratic rights of the people are violated and suppressed.

We demand once again the immediate elimination of racial discrimination and the policy of apartheid and the abolition of the evil laws and ruling apparatuses that sustain racial systems, in conformity with United Nations resolutions on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

III. MESSAGES FROM SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Message from the Director-General

[Original: English]

On this International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, the international community rededicates itself to the combat against apartheid and commemorates the tragic anniversary of the killing and brutalizing of schoolchildren by the South African police at Soweto on 16 June 1976.

The international community has consistently condemned the policies and practices of apartheid, which are viewed with abhorrence throughout the world. The struggle within South Africa against institutionalized racism has been matched by growing opposition world-wide to this most flagrant affront to justice and human rights.

UNESCO has played an active part in the international campaign against apartheid, which constitutes a denial of the fundamental principles on which the United Nations system rests. Following South Africa's departure from the organization in 1956 on the grounds that its publications on race distributed by the South African Institute of Race Relations were an interference in the internal

affairs of the Republic, UNESCO has continued to denounce apartheid, to contest its premises and to highlight its effects on education, science, culture and information.

On this day of solidarity, UNESCO reiterates its condemnation of apartheid, together with all forms of discrimination. It recognizes that, faced with the unswerving resolve of the majority population to overthrow apartheid, the South African Government has recently taken certain steps in the right direction. UNESCO hopes that these are not just gestures but harbingers of real change. However, it must not be forgotten that the situation in South Africa remains basically unchanged. Apartheid, through a whole complex of laws, regulations, practices and attitudes, is still part of the fabric of everyday life in that country. Apartheid, indeed, cannot be reformed. It must be abolished.

UNESCO will play its full part in the efforts of the international community to ensure the elimination of apartheid and the creation of a free, democratic and non-racial South Africa. Working in close co-operation with the Special Committee against Apartheid and the Centre against Apartheid, UNESCO will continue to analyse the prevailing situation in South Africa and to contribute to the preparation of post-apartheid policies, in collaboration with liberation movements, research institutions and democratic anti-apartheid forces within South Africa.

IV. MESSAGES FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND BODIES

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

Message from the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States

[Original: Arabic]

On 16 June, the international community commemorates the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa. The occasion assumes special significance this year in view of the progress made in the struggle of African peoples for freedom and independence and of the important stage reached on the path to victory.

Our Arab nations have, through the decisions adopted by summit conferences and the Council of the League of Arab States, affirmed their unwavering position of complete solidarity with and total support for the struggle of the African majority in South Africa against oppression and racial discrimination. Our nations have also expressed their pride in the victory of the Namibian people and its achievement of independence, together with their satisfaction at the momentous steps taken by the people of South Africa to fulfil its hopes for freedom, dignity and equality. The triumph of the people of South Africa in securing the release of Nelson Mandela illustrates its determination to overcome injustice and confirms its right to a life of freedom and dignity.

Despite the declaration by the Government of South Africa of a partial lifting of the state of emergency, the path of struggle to fulfil the aspirations of the South African people remains long. As the combatant Mandela said, the final

kilometre of a long march is more difficult, painful and exhausting than all the previous stages.

Convinced that the Arab community and African peoples share a single purpose and destiny, and pursuant to Arab-African decisions on solidarity and co-operation, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States reaffirms its full solidarity with and support for the struggle of the people of South Africa and its efforts to establish a society of justice and equality. It expresses the hope that stability and peace will soon prevail in southern Africa, allowing the peoples of the region to devote their efforts to development and progress.

V. MESSAGES FROM INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION

[Original: English]

On behalf of the Women's International Democratic Federation, which unites millions of women in 138 national affiliates organized in 117 States Members of the United Nations, we participate solemnly in today's observance of the events of 16 June 1976. We recognize the supreme sacrifice made by the black youths of Soweto even as we mourn their untimely deaths 14 years ago at the hands of Pretoria's security forces. Today we pause to honour the resistance of those youths to the psychological and physical oppression inflicted by the violence of the apartheid system.

The ebb and flow of human history inexorably advances the struggle for human dignity. At this juncture in time, recent events in southern Africa, most notably the independence of Namibia, give support to our positive view that the struggle against apartheid has reached another level. The Republic of South Africa, impelled by the principled struggles for human rights waged within its own borders and by the pressure of world opinion, has unbanned the democratic organizations, released Nelson Mandela and now partially lifted the state of emergency. It would be a mistake, however, to view these essentially public relations gestures as fundamentally changing the everyday lives of black people in South Africa.

When Nelson Mandela walked out of Pollsmoor Prison, he walked into the larger prison which is the Republic of South Africa itself. Black and white are bound in the degrading and vise-like coils of apartheid. The system of legalized racial discrimination is intact and its myriad laws still severely restrict, inhibit, limit and deny the capacities of the black majority to enjoy fundamental human rights as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The right to suffrag - universal, one person, one vote - is paramount. Until all the people of South Africa can participate equally and unconditionally in the electoral process, the world community cannot and must not relax its pressures on Pretoria.

Comprehensive mandatory economic sanctions against the Pretoria régime, the breaking off of all military collaboration with South Africa and a mandatory arms embargo, coupled with continued diplomatic efforts, could be decisive in bringing about the necessary internal political climate if apartheid is to be dismantled and fundamental change is to come to South Africa.

The Women's International Democratic Federation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, appeals to all Member States and to the women and men of the world to give meaning to the martyred dead children of Soweto by redoubling all diplomatic, political, economic, social and cultural pressures to end apartheid in South Africa.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) reiterates its firm solidarity with the workers and peoples of South Africa and Namibia in their struggle for the eradication of racism and apartheid.

Since its foundation more than four decades ago, WFTU and its affiliated organizations have made immense efforts in the struggle against racism, racial discrimination and especially apartheid.

This year, we commemorate the fourteenth anniversary of the Soweto events. On 16 June 1976 the brutal forces of the apartheid State shot peacefully demonstrating schoolchildren. Many of them were wounded and even killed.

The brutal force and severe beatings inflicted on black South African children by the police, the arrests and endless detentions without trial, drive home the painful fact that under the apartheid régime black children today are still the innocent victims of the widespread repression that black South Africans face from day to day.

This special day was proclaimed by the United Nations so that we might recall the sacrifice made by those martyred at Soweto and have another opportunity to dedicate ourselves to the cause of promoting world-wide solidarity with those fighting against apartheid.

The policy of apartheid practised by the Pretoria régime is racism at its worst. Apartheid is the root cause of the conflict in southern Africa and there can be no peace, stability or security in the region until the inhuman and immoral system is eradicated for ever. Moreover, this policy represents a threat to international peace and security.

We welcome the release of Nelson Mandela in February 1990. It is a victory for the whole progressive international community. The pressures that brought about the release of Nelson Mandela must now be maintained to ensure an early end to the apartheid system itself. Likewise, we welcome the results of free elections

in Namibia in November 1989. We are sure that free and independent Namibia will contribute in an important way to the elimination of racism in South Africa and the democratization of the whole region.

Although we have noted some positive changes in Pretoria, we are aware that apartheid cannot be reformed, it must be completely eliminated. Most of the legislative tools of apartheid remain intact despite the lifting of the ban on the African National Congress of South Africa, the South African Communist Party, the United Democratic Front and other organizations. The state of emergency is still in force, as are the Group Areas Act, the Populations Registration Act and the infamous Internal Security Act. The fight must continue until South Africa is a non-racial society.

WFTU wishes to express its appreciation for the efforts of the Special Committee against Apartheid to implement the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly with regard to the struggle to eradicate apartheid once and for all.

On the occasion of this International Day, WFTU joins with all progressive forces all over the world in expressing its firm solidarity with the workers and peoples of South Africa and Namibia in their struggle for their inalienable right to self-determination in a free, democratic, united and non-racial South Africa.

WFTU appeals to all trade unionists all over the world to act in solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa and Namibia in whatever way is suitable to their situation for freedom, democracy, equality and peace.

VI. MESSAGES FROM NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

SOVIET AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

Message from the Presidium of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee

[Original: English]

The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, on behalf of the Soviet Republic, extends greetings to the participants in the meeting of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid devoted to Soweto Day. The uprising of youth in June 1976 became a turning point in the contemporary history of South Africa. The upsurge in the national democratic struggle which started then has culminated today with major successes. However, we are now only at the initial stage of dismantling apartheid. We express solidarity with international public opinion in its determination to maintain pressure on the South African Government until the complete elimination of the system of racial discrimination.

We confirm our invariable readiness to co-opereate with the Special Committee in the interests of the liquidation of apartheid.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

REPORT OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST APARTHEID IN SPORTS, HELD AT STOCKHOLMN FROM 4 TO 6 SEPTEMBER 1990

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Fourth International Conference against Apartheid in Sports, which was organized by the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Swedish Sports Confederation, the Swedish National Olympic Committee, the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SAN-ROC) and the International Campaign against Apartheid Sport, met at Stockholm from 4 to 6 September 1990.

I. AGENDA

2. The agenda of the Conference was as follows:

1. Examine ways and means for the international sports community to help in accelerating the process of change, thus eliminating apartheid in sports in South Africa.

2. Study methods of assisting the disadvantaged section of South African sports so as to help in preparations for a post-apartheid sports structure.

II. OFFICERS

3. The Conference elected the following officers:

Chairman: Prof. Arne Lungqvist, Chairman of the Swedish Sports Confederation

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Jean-Claude Ganga, Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa

Mr. John Minto, HART Aoteroa, New Zealand Anti-Apartheid Movement

Ms. Alexandra Ivushkina, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Sports Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Sam Ramsamy, Chairman of SAN-ROC

4. The Conference elected the following to lead the two topics of discussion:

(a) Topic 1 on "Assistance for the disadvantaged section of South African sports":

Chairman: Mr. Lamine Diack, Vice-President of the International Amateur Athletics Federation

Rapporteur: Mr. Robert Archer, International Campaign against Apartheid Sport

(b) Topic 2 on "countering apartheid propaganda, assessing the isolation campaign and future strategy":

Chairman: Mr. Bruce Kidd, Lecturer at the University of Toronto, Canada

Rapporteur: Ms. Raija Mattila, Ministry of Education of Finland

5. The Conference elected the following to the Drafting Committee:

Chairman: Mr. Tommy Sithole, Zimbabwe Olympic Committee

Members: Mr. E. S. Reddy, former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Fellow

Mr. Lamine Ba, General Secretary, Supreme Council for Sport in Africa

Dr. Helen Hill, Australian Anti-Apartheid Movement

Mr. Jeremy Pope, Commonwealth Secretariat

Dr. Richard Lapchick, American Co-ordinating Council for Equality in Sport and Society

Representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)

III. PARTICIPANTS

6. The Conference was attended by 190 participants from over 40 countries, including sportspersons and sports administrators, activists in the boycott of apartheid sports and representatives of the liberation movements and Governments. Its deliberations were greatly aided by the participation of sportspersons and administrators from South Africa. A special welcome was extended to the delegates from Namibia, represented at the Conference for the first time as a free, democratic and non-racial country.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Opening session

7. The Conference commenced on 4 September 1990 with a welcome address from H.R.H. Prince Bertil of Sweden. Keynote addresses were given by Mr. Ingvar Carlsson, Prime Minister of Sweden, H.E. Major-General Joseph Garba, President of the General Assembly, and Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee. The Conference was officially opened by H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid.

8. Statements were also made by Mr. Jean-Claude Ganga, Association of National Olympic Committees, H.E. Mr. James Victor Gbeho, Chairman of the Commission against Apartheid in Sports, Mr. Sotirios Mousouris, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Centre against Apartheid, Mr. Lamine Ba, Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, Mr. Sobizana Mngqikana, representative of ANC, and Mr. Cecil Sondlo, representative of PAC.

9. Messages of support were received from, among others, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, H.E. Chief Emeka Anyaouku; the Secretary-General of the Organization for African Unity (OAU), H.E. Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim; the President of the Association of National Olympic Committees, Mr. Mario Vasquez Rana; and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Mrs. Catherine Lalumiere.

10. During the afternoon session, a statement was made by Professor Lungqvist, the Chairman, on actions towards non-racial sports in South Africa. Mr. Sam (SAN-ROC) spoke on the anti-apartheid sports campaign and recent developments, while Mr. Mluleki George, President of the National Olympic and Sports Congress of South Africa spoke on the situation in South African sports.

B. Discussions

11. The discussions were conducted under two topics (see para. 4). The introductory speech for topic 1 was made by Professor Bruce Kidd of the University of Toronto, Canada, and the introductory speech for topic 2 was made by Mr. Pierre Schori, President of the Swedish Judo Federation.

12. The Conference expressed its sincere appreciation to the Swedish Sports Confederation and the Swedish National Olympic Committee for hosting the Conference and for the excellent arrangements, which had contributed to the successful outcome of the conference. It also expressed its gratitude to the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, SAN-ROC and the International Campaign against Apartheid Sport for their support.

13. The Conference observed one minute of silence in memory of Sheikh Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of Sport of Kuwait and member of the International Olympic Committee, who was a long-standing supporter of the campaign and who had died recently in the defence of his country.

14. A thorough discussion of the current situation in South Africa and a review of efforts to eliminate apartheid in sports took place, during which the Conference was briefed by the SAN-ROC Chairman, Mr. Ramsamy, on developments in sports in South Africa in the light of his recent visit to South Africa and his meetings with sports leaders there. These leaders were overwhelmingly supportive of the international campaign to isolate apartheid sports. The deliberations led to the following conclusions.

15. It was clear that the long and heroic struggle of the people of South Africa and the powerful movement of international solidarity with their just struggle had, in 1990, finally succeeded in bringing within grasp the possibility for a peaceful

and negotiated settlement, which would eliminate apartheid and establish a non-racial, democratic State. Organizations of the people committed to the struggle for freedom and equality in South Africa had been unbanned; Nelson Mandela and other patriots imprisoned for their leadership of the struggle had been freed; and agreement appeared to be near. That would follow many thousands of persons forced into exile because of apartheid to return safely. A free Namibia had at last been welcomed into the community of nations.

16. In parallel with political developments, significant changes had been taking place in the field of sports in South Africa. The non-racial and anti-apartheid sports movement had blossomed and made a notable contribution to the mass democratic movement in recent years. It had been able to play a crucial role in the international boycott of apartheid sports, as evidenced by its success in forcing the curtailment of the English rebel cricket tour in January, and the agreed imposition of a moratorium on sports contact of any kind. Progress was also being made with unity talks aimed at achieving the integration on a truly non-racial basis of a number of previously separate sports organizations, fragmented by the apartheid system and currently still a barrier to the emergence of non-racial sport. That process was extremely promising and it deserved support in all ways consistent with the overall strategy of maintaining and strengthening the international isolation of South African sports. The concept of sports for all as representing the co-mingling in a recreational setting of all peoples, regardless of race and age, was a potent force for good and would bode well for a future free South Africa.

17. The campaign was also contributing to the general evolution of dialogue at the national level by encouraging sports administrators to forge a truly non-racial sports environment. In tangible ways the latter process, by engaging so many community leaders, was contributing in a meaningful way towards the ultimate change in white opinion essential if a peaceful resolution was to be achieved.

18. However, while those recent developments were of momentous significance, the negotiations for the elimination of apartheid and the establishment of a truly non-racial democratic State would not be easy. The Conference was cautioned not to underestimate the difficulties in the way of a negotiated end to apartheid. Hundreds had been killed in recent weeks, the state of emergency had effectively been reimposed in areas around Johannesburg and there appeared to many informed observers to be a concerted attempt under way by an element of the extreme right wing determined to frustrate a peaceful negotiated outcome. Even as the Conference met, the killings of unarmed civilians by the security forces continued. Accordingly a satisfactory outcome was by no means assured, and there remained a yawning gap between hope and achievement.

19. It was clear that the importance of maintaining every form of sanction and other pressure on the régime could not be overemphasized. As a consequence, the relevance and importance of the campaign to isolate apartheid sports, as one of the sharpest instruments in the sanctions arsenal, remained as critical as ever as a lever on the supporters of the apartheid régime.

20. Looking beyond the hoped-for ending of apartheid, the Conference identified a second, post-apartheid phase, for concerted international action necessary to redress the legacy of generations of neglect. It was clear to the Conference that massive reallocations of resources would be necessary to redress the inequalities and iniquities that would be the legacy of apartheid, particularly in such fields as education, health, housing and social welfare. Such was already the situation in Namibia. For the majority of South African and Namibian sportspeople that carried with it the risk of an indefinite perpetuation of the inequalities that had blighted apartheid sports. The Conference identified that as a special area in which the international sporting community could play a significant role in helping to redress the situation, both immediately by the provision of coaching and physical amenities (in ways consistent with maintaining the isolation campaign) and in the post-apartheid phase by the offer of all forms of sports assistance. The burdens of women under apartheid deserved special attention. The Conference appealed to the International Olympic Committee and other sports bodies as well as Governments and people around the world to consider assistance to the non-racial sports movement in South Africa in the spirit of international solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa.

21. The Conference was disturbed to learn that some major companies in South Africa were, even at that late stage, still providing sponsorship for partisan sports bodies and noted that that was inevitably to the detriment of efforts to redress existing imbalances of facilities and sports improvement programmes. The Conference observed that such actions were also demonstrative of the distance some elements of public opinion in South Africa had to travel before an end to apartheid could be in sight. The Conference asked SAN-ROC to monitor any such sponsorship to enable participants in their own countries to act in ways that might bring home to the groups concerned that their best interests both in the short and the long term lay in the wholehearted support of the non-racial sports movement. Concern was expressed that although substantial progress had been made with a number of international federations, a number of national tennis associations were flouting the undertaking given to the International Olympic Committee at a time when tennis was declared to be a demonstration sport, and it was agreed that the question of the possible suspension of those associations from the Olympic movement would be explored by SAN-ROC and the International Olympic Committee.

22. The Conference was also perturbed by attempts to achieve a sport-by-sport lifting of the international campaign or an easing of it to reward President De Klerk. Participants observed that not only would that be incompatible with the relevant United Nations resolutions, and particularly the consensus of the United Nations declaration against apartheid and its programme of action, but also with the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports, with the position of the International Olympic Committee and with agreed intergovernmental positions of long standing, such as the Gleneagles Agreement between Commonwealth countries. Further, it would also risk fatally undermining the international campaign by admitting exceptions that could be exploited by those anxious to reduce pressure on the South African Government. Participants noted that those supportive of such an approach included those who in the past had claimed that previous cosmetic reforms to the apartheid system had justified a relaxation of the campaign as well as some Governments that had hitherto claimed that they had no influence over their

national sports bodies and their policies but now appeared anxious to exercise that influence. The Conference also noted the gross incongruity of rewarding those who maintained the apartheid State at the expense of the oppressed majority.

23. Tribute was paid to the dedication and achievements of the Chairman of SAN-ROC, Mr. Ramsamy, which participants considered to be a challenge and inspiration to them all.

C. Declaration

24. On 6 September 1990, the Conference adopted the following declaration:

1. We believe that the primary aim of action by the world's sporting community in support of the majority population of South Africa remains that only the eradication of apartheid and the establishment of majority rule on the basis of free and fair exercise of universal adult suffrage by all the people in a united and non-fragmented South Africa can lead to a just and lasting solution to the explosive situation prevailing in southern Africa and can achieve the effective ending of racism in sports. This objective must continue to inform and inspire international action, including the continuance of the international campaign to isolate South African sports. We are convinced that no distinction can be made between the struggle against apartheid sports and the struggle against apartheid itself.

2. We salute the many people around the world who have made personal sacrifices of the highest order to achieve the destruction of apartheid. Millions of people in diverse ways, by their determination, sacrifice and vision, have brought this within reach. We note with particular pride the major contributions made by sportspersons and sports administrators, within and outside South Africa, as well as by millions of sports fans, anti-apartheid movements and others active in the boycott of apartheid sports.

3. We believe that experience has proved that sanctions of all kinds, and especially the international campaign to isolate apartheid sports, can and do work and have made a tangible contribution to the advances made to date. However, these advances remain insufficient to warrant at this stage any consideration of the lifting of the prohibitions against sporting contacts.

4. Although none of us wish the boycott to continue for a day longer than is absolutely necessary, we are convinced that relaxing the sports campaign at this stage would seriously prejudice the objective of successful negotiations towards the goal of an apartheid-free South Africa; rather, continued and concerted action remains paramount. Accordingly, we call upon all concerned to maintain and tighten the boycott of apartheid sports until the genuine representatives of the people of South Africa judge that the process of transition is both profound and irreversible, and call formally upon the international community to lift sanctions against South Africa only in accordance with the consensus resolution, the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 14 December 1989 (resolution S-16/1).

5. There can be no possibility of a sport-by-sport lifting of the international campaign, which depends for its effectiveness on the solidarity of sportspeople of all nations and which admits no exceptions. We find the suggestion of rewards for the apartheid régime to be an affront to the oppressed majority and as such to be beneath contempt.

6. We urge sports bodies and sportspersons in South Africa speedily to overcome all remaining difficulties so that they will soon be able to achieve united bodies for each sporting code without a trace of racial segregation or discrimination in their constitutions or practices, and thereby lay the basis for a national, non-racial sports federation encompassing all sportspersons in the country, irrespective of race, colour, sex, political ideology or affiliation.

7. We welcome the pending discussions at Harare between the International Olympic Committee, the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa and sports administrators of South Africa and wish the parties well in their efforts to chart a course for the evolution of a truly non-racial and universal sports movement in South Africa as a step towards the readmittance of South Africa to world sports at the appropriate time.

8. We recognize that there are special opportunities for Governments and the international sporting community to assist the non-racial sports movement to redress the structural inequalities created and sustained by the apartheid State into and beyond the post-apartheid period. We appeal to all those of good will to consider ways in which assistance of appropriate kinds and at appropriate stages can be afforded to the sportsmen and sportswomen of South Africa in order to achieve the openness of competition and the equality of opportunity for which sports stand. We envisage assistance in such areas as training courses for coaches, the provision of equipment, help in developing physical sports facilities and financial assistance. Such programmes of assistance should be developed in collaboration with SAN-ROC and the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (zone 6, southern Africa). Pending the lifting of the boycott there can be no question of individual or team sportspeople from South Africa participating in sports events outside the country, or sportspeople from the outside visiting South Africa to take part in sporting events. We also urge the international community to assist Namibia in its efforts to overcome the legacy of apartheid in sport.

9. We congratulate SAN-ROC and the International Campaign against Apartheid Sport for their work since we last met at Harare in 1987 and believe that they should continue to receive the full and enhanced support of the international community. We believe that they must be further strengthened to enable them to perform their essential task of co-ordinating the international campaign and ensuring that all are kept aware of developments in the present situation of rapid change so as to ensure collective rather than ad hoc action. We also acknowledge and commend the contributions made in the struggle against apartheid in sport by the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Commission against Apartheid in Sports, the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, the

International Olympic Committee, the African sports confederations, the international federations, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and numerous sportspersons, sports administrators and anti-apartheid activists around the world.

10. We appeal to all those Governments that can but have not yet done so to consider acceding to the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports. We also acknowledge the central importance of the Register of Sports Contacts with South Africa maintained by the Special Committee against Apartheid, and call upon those included in the list to take the steps required to have their names deleted, thus joining the overwhelming majority of their colleagues who refuse to participate in sporting events in South Africa.

11. We send our warmest greetings to all the sportspersons in South Africa who have made so many painful sacrifices to uphold the principle of non-racialism in sports, and assure them of the support of the international community until they attain the objective of full equality, not only at the highest level but also at the level of sport for all.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

MESSAGES RECEIVED ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA

(Issued in accordance with a decision taken by the Special Committee at its 642nd meeting, on 9 August 1990)

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I. MESSAGES FROM MEMBER STATES

BOLIVIA

Message from Mr. Carlos Iturralde Ballivian, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, in commemoration of the thirty-fourth anniversary of the historic protest march of 1956, I have the honour to convey to you, on behalf of the people and the Government of Bolivia and on my own behalf, our tribute of admiration for and solidarity with the women of South Africa in their ongoing struggle to achieve their legitimate rights.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Message from H.E. André Kolinga, President of the Republic and Head of State

[Original: French]

On the occasion of the gathering of the international community to mark the thirty-fourth anniversary of the struggle of the women of South Africa against the pass laws in their country, the Government of the Central African Republic wishes to add its voice to those of the other States represented here and to express its unfailing support for that struggle.

Accordingly, it hopes that as part of the recent positive developments in South Africa, the status of women in that country will be granted full attention, so that in a new, democratic, egalitarian and non-racial South Africa, the South African woman can fully resume her role.

CHILE

Message from Mr. Enrique Silva Cimma, the Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: Spanish]

On the observance on 9 August of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, and on behalf of the people and the Government of Chile, I wish to convey a message of hope and courage to all those women who, irrespective of differences in race, religion or social or political status, are seeking to end all forms of racial segregation, in particular, the institutionalized system of apartheid.

CUBA

Message from Mr. Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: Spanish]

The observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa takes on particular significance at a time when the struggle of the South African people against apartheid has attained its highest level and when Namibia is beginning its life as an independent nation.

In view of these circumstances, the United Nations continues to play a particularly important role in efforts to co-ordinate the various expressions of international solidarity with the South African patriots in their struggle to eradicate the apartheid system and to establish a non-racial South Africa.

The enormous challenge facing Namibia in its tasks of repairing the damage of prolonged colonial domination, confronting the demands of economic and social development and thereby consolidating its newly acquired independence calls for the most resolute co-operation of the international community.

In both cases - the struggle in South Africa and the tasks of an independent Namibia - the role of women is crucial and requires the greatest possible support, understanding and moral and material expressions of solidarity. The people of Cuba reaffirm their willingness to provide the women of South Africa with any assistance within its means and would like to take this occasion to congratulate the victorious women of Namibia and to pay tribute to the brave combatants of the African National Congress (ANC) and the other South African patriots who, during these long years of struggle, have dedicated themselves fully, and have even given their lives, to this just cause.

CYPRUS

Message from Mr. George Iacovou, Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: English]

On this solemn occasion of the observance of the International Day of solidarity with the struggle of women in South Africa, our memories turn back to that day, 34 years ago, when thousands of proud South African women staged a courageous demonstration against the racist régime's pass laws, demanding respect for the values cherished by all civilized people.

Since that significant event and despite the outcry of the international community, thousands have suffered the brutal force of the apartheid régime. Yet, the heroism those women demonstrated on that remarkable day, their commitment to the cause of freedom and their firm determination for the eradication of the

inhuman, repressive and unjust system of apartheid, has been a source of inspiration for the oppressed in all parts of the world.

Today's commemoration coincides with some promising developments in South Africa. Nelson Mandela, the inspired leader and symbol of the indomitable struggle of the heroic South African people against racial bondage, is at last free, and the prospects of a direct and fruitful political dialogue between the oppressed majority and the ruling minority of South Africa seem more than a welcome possibility.

While welcoming these developments as steps in the right direction, we stand firm in our position that in a rapidly changing world, characterized by reduced confrontation, relaxation of tension and the encouragement of dialogue, conciliation and co-operation, the effective and speedy eradication of apartheid and racial discrimination in general, should constitute a priority preoccupation of the international community.

In paying tribute to the struggle of the heroic women of South Africa, today we reaffirm in the words of the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, "faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women".

ECUADOR

Message from H.E. Mr. Diego Cordovez, Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, I wish to express once again the profound respect which the people and the Government of Ecuador have for women in general and the women of South Africa in particular and our support for the efforts by the United Nations to achieve legal equality for women; I would also like to declare our unequivocal rejection of the system of apartheid and our support for all initiatives to eliminate discrimination in any form against the women of South Africa.

GHANA

Message from H.E. Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the solemn meeting to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, I wish, on behalf of the people and Government of Ghana, to pay a deserving tribute to the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid for its leading role in sensitizing world

opinion to the struggle of the women in South Africa against the indignity and inequality they suffer under the racist policies of the apartheid régime.

Thirty-four years ago today, the courageous women of South Africa called the attention of the world to the inhumanity and evil nature of apartheid when they defied the oppressive machinery and publicly demonstrated their protest against the pass laws. Since then, their struggle for dignity and equality has won the admiration and support of all freedom-loving people.

The Day is being observed at a time when significant developments are taking place in southern Africa. The accession to independence by the people of Namibia is a fitting tribute to the dedication of women to the struggle they and the male freedom fighters waged against colonialism and the system of apartheid. The release of Mr. Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners and the unbanning of ANC, the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) and other anti-apartheid organizations reflect the indomitable and unwavering commitment of the heroic women of South Africa to the struggle for the elimination of apartheid.

As we commemorate this day, we call upon all States Members of the United Nations to remain steadfast in their compliance with the measures that have been instituted against the racist régime as a peaceful means of exerting pressure for the eradication of apartheid.

On behalf of the people and Government of Ghana, I salute the heroic women of South Africa who have consistently waged the struggle to liberate their country from the repression of apartheid and reassure the Special Committee against Apartheid of Ghana's continued support for the success of its important task.

GUINEA

Message from Brigadier-General Lansana Conte, President of the Republic of Guinea

[Original: French]

The celebration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa gives us the opportunity to convey to you, on behalf of the people and the Government of Guinea and on my own behalf, our deep and most sincere congratulations. We are following with great interest your praiseworthy and ceaseless efforts to promote peace, justice and democracy in South Africa.

The courageous and legitimate struggle of our sisters in South Africa merits the respect and support of all men of good will. We affirm once again the unwavering solidarity of the Republic of Guinea with your noble efforts.

GUYANA

Message from the Government

[Original: English]

On this the thirty-fourth anniversary of the courageous demonstration by South African women in protest against the hated pass laws, the Government and people of Guyana are pleased to pay tribute to their heroism.

The situation then was different from what it is now. At that time, hope seemed to be a mere chimera. Repressive legislation made life intolerable; and several patriots were forced to flee the country and seek refuge abroad. Standing up to the military machinery of the apartheid régime was an act of defiance that courted certain imprisonment and, very often, instant death.

Today, the leadership of liberation movements is in large measure no longer incarcerated. Political organizations have been unbanned. Refugees have returned home, and negotiations have begun with a view to bringing into being a new post-apartheid South Africa, one in which women will enjoy equal status and respect under the law. The hope that in the early days of the struggle seemed so dim is brighter now.

The road ahead will not necessarily be smooth. There will be pitfalls. There will be opposition to the changing prospects. But we are confident that the courage that marked that protest some 34 years ago will steel the women of South Africa even more as they support their men-folk in what seems to be the final stage of the struggle.

Guyana salutes the valiant women of South Africa and conveys to the Special Committee against Apartheid its appreciation for keeping this issue in the focus of the international community.

ISRAEL

Message from the Acting Permanent Representative to the United Nations

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, and in keeping with Israel's strongly held position against apartheid, the Government of Israel has instructed me to express the support of the Government and the people of Israel for the courageous women of South Africa in their endeavours to create a society guided by the principles of human dignity and freedom.

JAMAICA

Message from the Government

[Original: English]

The solemn meeting of the Special Committee against Apartheid marks the tenth year of observance by the United Nations of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa. The celebration of this day commemorates the courageous and historic act of defiance by South African women in 1956, when they assembled in bold protest against the racist régime's immoral pass laws.

On this occasion we pay tribute to that bravery and to the tenacity shown by the women of South Africa, who are persisting relentlessly in the courageous resistance to the oppressive and abhorrent apartheid system. The proliferation of policies by the apartheid régime of harassment, detention, imprisonment and attacks on women and members of their family are a continued outrage and defy all the norms governing human behaviour.

Jamaica welcomes this opportunity to renew the call for the total and complete dismantling of the apartheid system.

The developments under the present South African Government do not lead us to believe that there can be any relaxation of international pressure on South Africa. Until the black people of South Africa are able to exercise their legitimate rights to freedom and liberty and to live with dignity and respect, there should be no change in the position adopted by the international community to intensify economic, financial and other sanctions against South Africa.

The Government and the people of Jamaica rejoice at the release from South African gaol of the great patriot and leader, Mr. Nelson Mandela. Even under the incarceration, his indomitable spirit continued to inspire the struggle against apartheid. Mrs. Winnie Mandela remains a proud example of resilience, devotion and unswerving commitment to the cause of freedom and justice - an image of strength among all women struggling for liberation from oppression.

The independence of Namibia is an occasion of deep satisfaction to all who struggle against South African domination, and is a source of immense satisfaction to the United Nations, which has had an important role in this process. The sustained efforts of Namibian women have been a significant factor in the achievement of freedom and independence in their country. Under racist domination the Namibian women and children have been the greatest victims of the policies of oppression. We pledge our full support and assistance to the efforts aimed at the reconstruction of Namibia. In order to combat the effects of these past conditions, Namibian women must achieve full and equal participation in all spheres of activity in the new State and it is crucial that Namibia be provided the technical, financial and other forms of assistance necessary for its reconstruction, especially the improvement of conditions for women and children in the country and the resettlement of returning Namibian women and children.

MALAYSIA

Message from H.E. Mr. Dato' Abu Hassan Bin Haji Omar, Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: English]

On this solemn occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, the people and Government of Malaysia wish to reiterate their resolute support and solidarity with the just struggle of the women in south Africa against apartheid.

On this occasion, we salute the courage and bravery of the women in South Africa who risked their lives to attain their rights to freedom, equality and dignity 34 years ago. The people and Government of Malaysia express their admiration for South African women, who are enduring the unbearable hardships of oppression, harassment and persecution under the heinous system of apartheid. Today, the South African women, alongside their menfolk, continue to fight against the inhuman policies and practices of apartheid. The international community, therefore, should spare no effort in reaffirming its commitment to the legitimate struggle of the people of South Africa towards the elimination of apartheid once and for all.

It is a measure of great pride and happiness for the people and the Government of Malaysia to see that Namibia has finally attained its independence and has taken its rightful place in the community of nations. We warmly congratulate the Namibian people for the well-deserved triumph of their relentless struggle to fight the scourge of colonialism and apartheid. The resounding success of the Namibian people undoubtedly serves as a source of immense inspiration to the people of South Africa and the international community in the struggle for the dismantling of the apartheid system in South Africa. Apartheid must go and it must go soon. While we take cognizance of the recent positive developments in South Africa, we urge the Pretoria régime to take further measures to remove all the pillars of apartheid in South Africa without further delay.

The people and the Government of Malaysia once again pledge their readiness to act in solidarity with the people of South Africa and the international community to pursue the struggle for the total elimination of apartheid in South Africa, and in this regard salute the women of South Africa for their determination, perseverance and sacrifices that they have made in defence of human dignity and freedom.

MEXICO

Message from the Government

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the thirty-fourth anniversary of the demonstration by the women of South Africa against the pass laws of the South African régime, the Government of Mexico would like to express once again its solidarity with the South African women who, with an unshakeable will, have maintained their opposition to the system of racial segregation.

Mexico supports the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women because they constitute a basic instrument by which the women under the apartheid system can claim their rights.

The Government of Mexico renews its support for United Nations efforts to put an end to all discriminatory practices and racial segregation. As a State Party to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, it reaffirms its commitment to defend fundamental human rights; among these, equality is the vital principle on which to base the eradication of a practice which is so harmful to mankind.

The Government of Mexico would also like to express its great satisfaction at the fact that Namibia has achieved its independence, while reaffirming its solidarity with Namibian women. It hopes that this event will mark the beginning of a process leading to the complete eradication of the various forms of violence against South African women.

PAKISTAN

Message from the Government

[Original: English]

Pakistan today joins the international community in the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa. The courageous women of South Africa have played a prominent role in the struggle against the oppressive rule of the illegal Pretoria régime. We salute their heroic struggle against the odious policies of racial discrimination and apartheid and wish them success in the realization of their noble goals.

Being adherents of Islam, which prescribes equality of all mankind, the people and Government of Pakistan find apartheid abhorrent. As such, Pakistan has consistently condemned the policy and practice of apartheid by the white racist régime of South Africa and, in compliance with United Nations resolutions, does not maintain political, economic or commercial links with the Pretoria régime. Pakistan stands fully behind the oppressed people of South Africa in their just struggle for the restoration of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Pakistan welcomed the release from detention of Mr. Nelson Mandela, the leader of the African National Congress of South Africa, who symbolizes the struggle of the black majority of South Africa for dignity and equality, the establishment of majority rule and the abolition of the abominable system of apartheid. The release of Mr. Mandela is the first step towards the achievement of these noble objectives. As a mark of respect and admiration for Mr. Mandela's courage and dedication to the just struggle of his people, Pakistan has conferred its highest civil award, the Nishan-i-Pakistan on Mr. Mandela.

The Government and people of Pakistan, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, reaffirm their abiding and unwavering support to the cause of the oppressed people of South Africa for liberty and equality.

PANAMA

Message from the Government

[Original: Spanish]

The new democratic Government of Panama wishes to convey a message of support and appreciation to the Special Committee against Apartheid, as it continues its difficult and unflagging struggle against the existing system of apartheid.

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, the Government of the Republic of Panama, on behalf of the Panamanian people, wishes to convey a message of encouragement to the women and the black majority of South Africa, who aspire to the right to live in dignity, democracy and freedom.

The Government of Panama welcomes the important measures announced in February 1990 by Mr. F. W. de Klerk, President of the Republic of South Africa, including the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela and the lifting of the restrictions on education and the media.

The Government and people of Panama share the views expressed at the Special Session of the Seventy-seventh Session of the International Labour Conference by Nelson Mandela. He hoped that a new South Africa would be born, where the principle of one man-one vote would be put into practice and where respect would be ensured for the democratic principle under which each South African has the right to his own language, culture and religion.

The Government and people of the Republic of Panama welcome the initiative of the United Nations in sending a high-level observer mission to the Republic of South Africa, in order to verify the advances made in that country towards the eradication of the odious system of apartheid.

PERU

Message from Mr. Luis Marchand, Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, the Government of Peru wishes to renew its firm support for the heroic struggle being waged by the women against the apartheid régime.

In solidarity with the just cause of peoples seeking equality and respect for their ethno-cultural identity, the Government of Peru reaffirms its commitment to the struggle of the South African people to eradicate the shameful system of apartheid. This commitment is in line with the Political Constitution of Peru, which rejects imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism or racial discrimination in any form.

Because of the inhuman system of apartheid, women and children are made to suffer from the most severe and cruel attacks. Despite this, in the struggle against that system, women have been and continue to be an example of bravery and steadfastness. Their courage has highlighted the vital role played by women in the effort to eradicate this ignominious system, which is an insult to all free peoples.

The people and the Government of Peru wish to express their moral and political commitment to the efforts to eliminate apartheid and all forms of racism and racial discrimination, and to attain, as rapidly as possible, a more just and egalitarian society, thus avoiding so much useless and unnecessary suffering and sacrifice.

PHILIPPINES

Message from Mr. Raul S. Manglapus, Secretary of Foreign Affairs

[Original: English]

The Government and people of the Philippines join today the international community in expressing solidarity with the women of South Africa.

The apartheid régime's systematic racism, oppression and dehumanization count among its victims the black women of South Africa. The women equally bear the brunt of the struggle to free their land from apartheid. The women of South Africa have actively participated through political and social action in bringing the demise of apartheid. Many mothers, daughters and sisters have been left behind by their menfolk who have had to leave the homelands to find jobs created through oppressive labour policies. Many have been separated and widowed owing to the number of men imprisoned, tortured and killed.

Today's observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa is a fitting occasion to rededicate ourselves to achieve the goal of a united, democratic and non-racial society in South Africa.

The Philippines is pleased with the many positive developments within South Africa, which indicate that apartheid may soon be eradicated. We welcome the ongoing negotiations between the representatives of the Government of South Africa and the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC). We commend the commitment of both parties towards the resolution of the existing climate of violence in South Africa. In particular, we hail the suspension of the armed struggle of ANC and the announcement by the Government of South Africa of the release of political prisoners and the return of exiles to South Africa.

These developments augur well for the implementation of the declaration adopted at the sixteenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly on apartheid and its destructive consequences in southern Africa.

The Government and people of the Philippines believe that the day is coming when a free, united, democratic and non-racial South Africa will take its rightful place in the comity of nations.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Message from Mr. Farouk Al-Shara', Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: Arabic]

On this happy occasion, on which you are celebrating the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, I wish on behalf of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to salute you and the members of the Special Committee against Apartheid.

The conditions under which this day is being celebrated this year are different from those obtaining at this time last year. The last colony in Africa, an outpost of the apartheid régime in Pretoria, has won its independence, thanks to the great sacrifices of its people, and has joined the ranks of the independent nations of the world.

As we celebrate this day, we salute the sons and daughters of South Africa, who have even sacrificed their lives so that the world might recognize and respect the principles of human dignity and equality for all. We draw particular attention to those defenceless and innocent people in South Africa who are still being killed for merely having the courage, on behalf of the majority, to demand equality in the country of their birth. The designation of this day as a day of solidarity with their struggle bears witness to the legitimacy of that struggle and is a constant reminder that peace will continue to elude mankind until such time as racism and racial discrimination are eradicated from the world.

When the General Assembly in 1981 designated 9 August as the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, it thereby gave recognition to the momentum of the struggle and aspirations of women for freedom and equality. The world follows with appreciation and interest the involvement of women in South Africa in the struggle for their freedom and dignity side by side

with men in order to put an end to the apartheid régime and establish a democratic society free from racism and racial discrimination. Just how barbarous is the racist régime in South Africa may be gauged from the number of children it has killed and the number of orphans, widows and widowers it has made. For this reason, the régime of apartheid may truly be described as a crime against humanity, matched only by the practices of the Zionist racist régime in occupied Palestine, where the Palestinian Arab people and the inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and the other occupied Arab territories are subject to practices similar to those in southern Africa. Arab women are subject to the most repugnant forms of persecution and torture and the use of gases which cause deaths and miscarriages in pregnant women, such as happened on 12 June last when chemical weapons were thrown into a United Nations dispensary for infants.

The racist régimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine share a single ideology and co-ordinate their racist practices against the peoples under their domination and colonalist occupation, relying on economic aid and political and military support from well-known Western circles. These two régimes have numerous links whose manifestations and significance need no stressing. The international community has both condemned and rejected the policy of apartheid and has determined that zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination.

This judgement by the international community was contained in the historic General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) of 1975. The international community has also repeatedly affirmed the close connection and all-round co-operation between these two régimes, particularly in the military field, including co-operation involving nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction.

UGANDA

Message from H.E. Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda, and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity

[Original: English]

As you observe the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, I wish on behalf of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the people and Government of Uganda and on my own behalf, to salute the President and members of the Special Committee against Apartheid.

We fully recognize and support the relentless efforts of the Committee towards the worthy cause of publicizing the nature and tragic effects of apartheid and promoting international action for its elimination and for the establishment of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa.

The immeasurable sacrifices made by the women living under apartheid and the untold suffering and pain inflicted on them by the system are often overlooked. At times, their significant contribution to the struggle, for freedom and human dignity, has been underrated. We pay tribute to the mothers, wives and sisters in South Africa who have remained steadfast in their opposition to the racist régime despite the continuing degradation and abuse to which they are subjected.

The primitive system of apartheid constitutes one of the greater crimes against humanity in our time. We welcome the current positive signs of change in South Africa. However, while the pillars of apartheid remain intact, pressure within and outside South Africa must continue unabated. At this point in time there should be no mention of lifting economic sanctions on the racist régime.

OAU, the people and Government of Uganda continue to support all progressive forces within and outside South Africa in the struggle against apartheid. We encourage the Special Committee against Apartheid and the international community in their efforts towards the total elimination of the system of apartheid and the establishment of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa.

II. MESSAGES FROM INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

MOUVEMENT DE SOUTIEN A L'AFRIQUE AUSTRALE

(SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORT MOVEMENT)

Message from Ms. Colette Kirura, President of the South African Support Movement and Secretary General of the Burundian Women's Union

[Original: French]

The observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia offers us a welcome opportunity to express, once again, our wishes for success to all South African fighters and, in particular, to South African women in their heroic struggle.

At this crucial time in our struggle, marked by the collapse of the last stronghold of the colonial system in Africa, we hail the courage and determination of our South African women comrades and assure them of our undying support for their efforts to bring about a legitimate, multiracial society in South Africa. We remain committed to that cause until apartheid has been totally eradicated.

The Mouvement de Soutien à l'Afrique Australe (South African Support Movement) of Burundi takes this opportunity to reaffirm its sympathy for the activities and devoted attention by South African women in order to bring about the triumph of current efforts to dismantle apartheid and instal a democratic régime in South Africa. It adds its voice to all those demanding that comprehensive sanctions and steady pressure be applied against the Pretoria régime until the end of the struggle. At this decisive phase of the struggle the Movement undertakes to redouble its energy in order to sensitize national and African opinion to the efforts under way, particularly as concerns the assistance to be given to the peoples fighting heroically in South Africa.

SOVIET WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Message addressed to the Women's Section of ANC and Women's Council of SWAPO

[Original: English]

Marking together with you, the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women of South Africa, Soviet women send their best regards.

We congratulate you on the great victory of Namibia's independence, the encouraging changes in South Africa, the release of the great son of Africa, Nelson Mandela, and other political prisoners. You made great contributions to this victory by your many years of courageous struggle, in the course of which many great daughters of southern Africa gave their lives for the cause.

There are no more colonies in Africa but the bulwark of racism, South Africa, is still there. We admire the staunchness of the women of South Africa, who continue, despite difficulties and pressure from right-wing forces, their struggle against the inhuman apartheid régime, for freedom and equality of all the people of their country. Together with all upright people on Earth, we demand the elimination of all racist laws: expressing hope for the success of political settlement, we assure you that we shall always hold with your just struggle. Down with apartheid, racism and colonialism. Long live free Namibia. Long live united democratic non-racial South Africa. Long live the women of South Africa, active champions of freedom for all peoples in southern Africa.

UNION DES FEMMES DU BURKINA FASO

(BURKINA FASO WOMEN'S UNION)

[Original: French]

For us, the members of UFB, the day of 9 August is a time to turn our thoughts towards our sisters, the victims of apartheid, and to combine our efforts with those of men and women who value justice in order to uproot this abhorrent system in South Africa.

While the release of Nelson Mandela and the independence of Namibia are assured by major victories over this system of oppression, the troubles of the South African peoples in general and women, in particular, are not over. Now is the time when they are most in need of a genuine display of solidarity by all those struggling for dignity and equality among men.

UFB has embarked on this path by contributing generously to sustain the fighters of the African National Congress of South Africa through its women's section. Our Union welcomes the establishment of the National Committee in Support of the Struggle of the South African People. It calls upon its members to make their effective contribution to this Committee in order to free the children and women who are victims of apartheid in South Africa.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION

Message from Ms. Vinie Burrows, Representative

[Original: English]

On behalf of the Women's International Democratic Federation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and on the Special List of the International Labour Organisation. I submit the following statement to this solemn observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa.

Today's meeting commemorates the heroism and resistance of the 20,000 women from all parts of South Africa who marched to Pretoria on 9 August 1956 protesting the pass laws. Their extraordinary act of defiant courage continues to capture the imagination and admiration of the international community. It is now 34 years since that massive demonstration, but the courage and determination of those women is reflected daily in the numbers of women and their families who resist and survive the brutality of the apartheid system. Moreover, in the intervening years, apartheid's terrorism and violence against the African peoples of southern Africa has escalated and the gravity of their situation has deepened.

However, a dawn of change is on the horizon. The intensity of internal resistance to South African apartheid and the resolute integrity of the international community with its principled, concrete and continuous opposition to the heinous crime of apartheid have borne fruit. When 21 March 1990 ushered in the young independent State of Namibia, another brighter and more hopeful day in the politics of southern Africa began. The United Nations, which since its founding has given decolonization a primary emphasis, can take particular satisfaction that with some few and glaring exceptions the process of political decolonization around the world has been completed.

The Women's International Democratic Federation rejoices that President de Klerk has unbanned the democratic organizations and has released Nelson Mandela and other prominent South African figures in the anti-apartheid struggle. These and other reform measures have captured front-page headlines around the world but, in reality, the structure of South Africa's stranglehold of white privilege remains intact. South Africa's non-white disenfranchised majority still suffers and labours under an unjust legalized system of racial discrimination, which denies them the basic human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

A facade of reform has been Pretoria's response to external pressure and internal resistance. As an example, although the South African Government has stopped forced removals in both urban areas and the reserves, and although it has abolished the iniquitous pass laws, the Government has simply resorted to other tactics, such as expropriating land and cutting off services to achieve the same effect of controlling the movement of the African population.

As a women's organization, the Women's International Democratic Federation is proud of the role that African women have played, as the embattled parents of detained children, in the forefront of the resistance with rent boycotts, consumer actions and defiance campaigns. Black women workers play a limited role in the trade union movement and their still unorganized demands as domestic and farm workers must be equitably addressed at some point in time. Although the United Nations has declared 1990 International Literacy Year, that proclamation means nothing in South Africa, where the limitations of the Bantu Education Act still permeate all aspects of education for blacks and whites. Intolerable levels of illiteracy, inadequate teaching facilities and funding discrepancies head the list of education inequities. Both the National Medical and Dental Association and the South African Health Workers' Congress, whose findings are quoted in a report of the Secretary-General (A/44/960), concur that in apartheid South Africa, female illiteracy, malnutrition, poor occupational health and safety conditions and the entrenched racist attitudes of local authorities play important roles in the high mortality and morbidity rates for the African population.

My organization is also keenly conscious of the disabilities faced by African women because of their race and sex. These two bands of discrimination interact and reinforce each other. As the world looks towards the proposed 1995 World Conference on Women, the oppression of African women and the effects of apartheid on the nurturing and education of the female child is a critical area of concern. It is our hope that the upcoming World Summit on Children to be held at United Nations Headquaters in September 1990 will address the special plight of the female child under apartheid. These young girls will be the mothers of the nation on that glorious day when South Africa will truly have a unitary, non-racial democracy. The lack of support services for them now will have a critical impact on their preparedness to play their true role as citizens and leaders in the new society.

The Women's International Democratic Federation salutes and applauds the meeting that is to be held today at Durban. This event is to launch officially the rebirth of the ANC Womens League. This rebirth brings together those elements of the Congress of Democrats, the Indian Peoples Congress and the Colored Peoples Congress that were part of the Federation of South African Women during the two brief but burning years of its active existence, 1954-1956.

The Women's International Democratic Federation, which unites millions of women in over 100 national affiliates around the world, appeals to this meeting to step up and redouble demands for comprehensive mandatory economic sanctions; for full observance by all countries of the mandatory arms embargo; for continued and increased assistance to the front-line and neighbouring States. Moreover, the reasonable conditions for the creation of a climate for negotiations were admirably set forth in the above-mentioned Secretary-General's report and those minimum standards should be acceeded to by the Republic of South Africa immediately.

The march on Pretoria 34 years ago by more than 20,000 South African women must be joined by the march of the international community towards helping all the peoples of South Africa achieve the goal of a unitary, non-racial democracy, with one person, one vote.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

[Original: English]

The International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa is an occasion to reiterate the commitment of the international community to intensify its efforts to eliminate apartheid for ever and to promote the establishment of a society in South Africa in which all people of the country, irrespective of race, sex, colour or creed, may enjoy fundamental human rights and freedoms.

The International Day commemorates the historic action of 9 August 1956, when more than 20,000 women gathered around the Union Building in Pretoria to protest the extension of the detestable pass laws to cover African women - an action that has inspired world-wide solidarity with working women and men in all countries.

The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) has always highly appreciated the exemplary courage and firm determination of the South African and Namibian women and fully supported their heroic struggle, in common with the workers and people, for a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

This year, the International Day is being commemorated at a time when the heroic struggle of South African people, together with the incessant international solidarity, enter a new stage and successes have been achieved in the campaign to release Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners and the national independence of Namibia was won on 21 March 1990.

However, the policy and practice of apartheid within South Africa still continue to have a most devastating effect on the working and living conditions of women in South Africa and Namibia who have suffered, in particular, from South Africa's occupation and destabilization policy.

WFTU therefore calls upon the world trade union movement and all democratic forces to intensify their solidarity with the struggle for the total and final abolition of racism and apartheid, and the creation of a non-racial democratic society in South Africa, as well as to contribute to the economic reconstruction and social progress of Namibia.